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The Journal Register

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Journal Register saturates local communities

Dear Reader:

We are pleased to provide this week's issue of The Journal Register mailed to every resident in our coverage area for free over the next two weeks. Enclosed you will find a remittance form that you may submit to either start a new subscription or extend your current one.

We resisted the temptation to take to the phones, interrupt your

dinner and make our subscription pitch. Instead, our preferred way of continuously growing our readership is to share a couple of copies of the paper with you, enclose a subscription form and await the returns. We're proud of our work and hope you find it brings you closer to understanding your community. We're hoping for a good response from this campaign because we'll then be able to provide even more value to the

local businesses that support us.

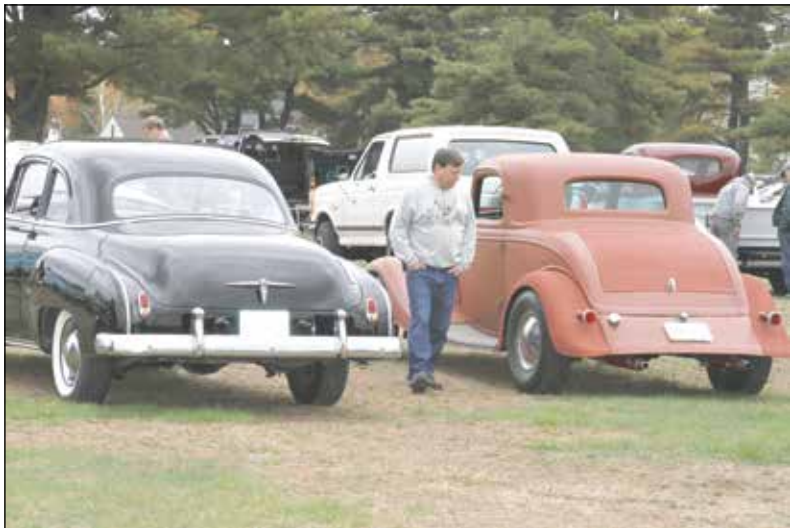
There are no plans to rest on our laurels. Our pledge is to continue to work hard at providing even better local news coverage. Your suggestions as to how we can do a better job are always welcome. We're a family-owned company with a deep commitment to the towns we serve. We want to meet, and if possible, exceed your expectations.

We'll be arriving at your

home next week, too. So please take a moment to consider the service we provide and enjoy the paper. We hope to be arriving at your home every week for years to come. Thanks so much. Enjoy the fall season.

Sincerely,
Patrick Turley
Publisher
Turley Publications
Palmer, MA

COMMUNITY



BRIMFIELD — From fender to fin, there were classic cars as far as the eye could see at the Brimfield Winery last Saturday. Nearly 500 classic car owners and hundreds more auto enthusiasts turned out

for the show. Proceeds benefited the Brimfield Fire Association. To learn more about the department and how to support the town's firefighters, visit the Brimfield Fire Department page on Facebook.

Car Show Fundraiser

Turley Publications
photos by Michael Harrison



HAMILTON RESERVOIR

Love the lake? Consider joining the HR Association

By Nicole Acevedo
Correspondent

HOLLAND — While many people enjoy the beauty the lake has to offer, a relative few are actively involved in its maintenance and well-being.

An organization tasked with stewardship of Hamilton Reservoir is hoping more people will join them in working towards the preservation of the valuable resource.



Turley Publications photo by Deanna Sloat

In 2011, Hamilton Reservoir Association was granted non-profit status, which led to the formation of the conservation group today known as the Friends of Hamilton Reservoir Association. Located in Holland, the more than 400-acre body of water is at the core of the group's conservation efforts.

According to former president Christine McCooe, the original association was established on July 27, 1954, when a group of individuals set out with the intention of forming "a corporation with the State of Massachusetts for the

HAMILTON | page 5

PUBLIC SAFETY



Turley Publications staff photo

Monson Fire Chief Brian Harris points out one of the several areas where the department's station house is showing how much it deteriorated since it was built in the 1970s. Inside, there's water damage from a leaky roof, cramped conditions and other inadequacies the professional staff contends with.

Official warns public might not be ready to pay for a new firehouse

By Michel Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

MONSON — The town is in the midst of deciding how to upgrade what everyone seems to agree is a woefully outdated and inadequate fire station facility for its professional department.

It's on track to be decided at the next annual town meeting in May, 2022, but that depends on the outcome of a special town meeting discussion next month. Something else officials — and some residents — appeared to agree on at a recent select board meeting is the need to educate the public.

Everything from the cost of either renovating and expanding the existing facility that was built in the 1970s, or building a new one in a different location, to the bureaucra-

cy inherent in such projects is a lot to digest, they said. Both options on the table cost around \$16 million.

There's a good chance a considerable portion of that could be covered by a federal grant, especially if a more than \$1 billion infrastructure bill already approved by the U.S. Senate but stalled for months in the House is ultimately approved. But even if the bill passes, there could be a relatively short window for towns and cities to apply.

Some of the questions and comments during the Sept. 28 meeting was concerning to Town Manager Jennifer Wolowicz.

"I think this is another example that this project is not ready to move forward until a discussion at a special town meeting," she said.

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COMMUNITY

Folks from local towns work together to solve a mystery

By Diane Kane
Correspondent

WALES — Cheyenne Lowell Sr. finds lost things.

He had no idea that his hobby would eventually lead him to find a baby spoon dated 1910 and bring people from all over together on social media to help find its family.

Lowell, of Wales, got into metal detecting by watching the TV show Diggers on the Nation Geographic Channel.

Genealogy is like a scavenger hunt and a jigsaw puzzle all rolled into one.

— Dolores J Rush

"I watched two seasons and decided I needed to try metal detecting out for myself," Lowell said.

Wales has proven to be a treasure trove of small historical finds for Lowell. He started out with an

SPOONS | page 5



Courtesy photos

The bottom of the mysterious, antique spoon showing information that gave local amateur sleuths the clues they needed to solve the mystery.



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ARCHIE

Rescued from the streets of Georgia, Archie is a Chihuahua/Jack Russell Terrier mix who is now living his best life in Monson with the Rocco family. He is 2 years old and loves to go to camp on the weekends in Rhode Island and play with his furry friends there,” Laurie Rocco says. “He keeps us busy by trying to chase anything that’s flying around him. He loves hiking Peaked Mountain and cuddling on the couch. If you meet him he will try to give you lots of kisses. He’s a lover not a fighter.”

Do you have a pet that makes your life special (not limited to dogs and cats)? We feature your pets here and on Facebook every week. Just email a high-quality jpg and some information, including your pet’s name, your name, and town, to mharrison@turley.com.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

It’s time to help Santa’s Elves so they can help others

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER – For the second year in a row, Palmer families in need of assistance during the holiday season will receive it from Santa’s Elves of Palmer.

Santa’s Elves of Palmer Organizer Lori Chiacchia put this event together last year after realizing how many Palmer families were in need of assistance as Christmas approached.

“We started last year during the pandemic, with people being out of work,” Chiacchia said.

Santa’s Elves is asking families having a hard time financially as well as those who want to sponsor a family to email a wish list to Chiacchia, who, along with other volunteer Elves, are already organizing lists into gifts to deliver.

“Most of the kids do get sponsors,” Chiacchia said.

“As for the ones that don’t, that’s where the toys from our Stuff the Cruiser event comes in. I do also take just random toy donations.”

As of last week, over 30 families have signed up, which Chiacchia said she is pleased to see.

“It makes me feel so much joy to be able to be the advocate of so many voices that are one, either afraid to speak up and ask for help because they’re ashamed of themselves, or you know, it’s 100 percent confidential, so I feel very blessed to be able to be that person for people to come to me and say ‘hey you know I need some help. Please help us out.’ And then the Palmer community is amazing with responding and sponsoring these families.

For the upcoming season, Chiacchia said Santa’s Elves also plans to have its annual Stuff the Cruiser event, with information on it to be available soon. Chiacchia also said they have about 18 baskets to raffle off soon.

Anyone who would like to stay updated with Santa’s Elves can join their Facebook group, “Santa’s Elves of Palmer MA.” To submit information for a family in need of assistance, make a donation or request assistance, email l.jodoin30@gmail.com.

Agreement reached for tri-town animal control facility

By Michael Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

PALMER — A months-long effort to hammer out a multi-town agreement for a joint animal control facility that will be shared among Palmer, Ware and Monson is about to come to fruition.

Palmer officials appeared at a recent Monson Select Board meeting to provide an update on the language for the final agreement. Palmer Town Manager Ryan McNutt told the board he and Monson Selectwoman Patricia Oney worked closely the past few weeks to come to terms.

“A member of your select board and I had been communicating, McNutt said, explaining that some changes reflected a decision by Warren, which initially was going to be part of the consortium, to drop out of the agreement.

“Warren chose to do animal control in a different way,” McNutt said.

Other than that, the path is clear to go forward, including a potential zoning issue that could have held up to deal.

“I recently got the communication that your special town meeting has the zoning issue for the pound on it, and it looks like it has a favorable recommendation from the planning department on it,” McNutt said.

“We have a solid animal control agreement that should address any of the complaints we get and hopefully do a lot of good for folks and their pets. We know how important people’s pets are to them and we take this very seriously.”

The facility would be located on Bethany Road in Monson. The Monson Select Board approved a motion 3-0 to move forward.

“I spent a lot of time on this,” Oney joked. “I’m good. I’m glad to have it done finally.”

Palmer is designated as the “Lead Community” and town Animal Control Officer Sydney Plante

will run the facility. The agreement is for three years, after which any of the towns can opt out.

The towns are contributing to the cost based on population. Palmer, which has the most residents – 12,237 – will pay \$27,533 annually. Ware, the next populous with 9,872, will chip in \$22,212 a year, followed by \$19,770 a year based on its 8,787 total residents. . According to the agreement, it works out to \$2.25 a year per resident in all three towns.

Also in the agreement is a stipulation that residents whose pets end up housed at the facility will be charged \$50 a day during the duration of the pet’s stay and be responsible for any veterinarian bills if medical care is needed. Those fees would be paid directly to the vet.

The agreement includes a provision that the three towns “agree that they will explore options for reducing the costs for providing the services and running the program.”

‘Bulky Day’ returns for unloading furniture, etc.

For the first time since 2017, the Town of Palmer is holding a “Bulky Day” from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 30, at the DPW, 1015 Bridge Street, Palmer to unload furniture, electronics and more. There is a fee schedule to dump various items as follows:

Furniture: Chair, \$10; Loveseat, \$15; Sofa, \$20; Sofa (sleeper), \$30; Mattress/Boxspring Up to Queen Size, \$30, (King Size, \$30); Metal Items: Bicycle, \$10; Gas

Grill (no propane tank), \$10; Hot Water Heater, \$10; Lawn Mower (no gas or oil), \$25; White Metal (Dishwasher, Dryer, Stove, Washer), \$10; Misc. Metal (per cubic yard), \$25.

Waste Ban/Misc. items – CFC’S (A/C, Dehumidifier, Freezer, Refrigerator, \$30; CRT’S (Television/Computer Monitors), \$30;

Tires: Off rim, \$4 each; On rim, \$15.

Questions? Call DPW: 413-283-2615

Corrections

The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send information to Editor at mharrison@turley.com, or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.

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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Monson special meeting Nov. 1

MONSON — The Town of Monson will have a Special Town Meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 1, Granite Valley School auditorium.

View the warrant online at monson-ma.gov.

The deadline for anyone who is not currently a registered voter in Monson to register to vote for this meeting is Oct. 22.

For inquiries, contact the Monson Town Clerk's office at 413-267-4115 or townclerk@monson-ma.gov. Register to vote online at sec.state.ma.us/ovr.

Library hosts Ashe rep

A staff member from state Rep. Brian Ashe's office will be available to meet with residents at the Monson Library on the following dates from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.: Oct. 20, Nov. 17, and Dec. 15. If you are not able to attend and have an issue or concern, contact Robin Frechette at 413-272-3922 for assistance.

Gobi announces office hours for October

State Sen. Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer) is announcing office hours for the month of October and invites community members to meet with her Communications and Intergovernmental Affairs Director, Lucas McDiarmid, at locations across the Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex District.

Office hours will last for a period of one hour at each location and are scheduled by region. All residents are invited to attend at any location. If you have questions or wish to make a special appointment with the Senator or her staff, outside of scheduled hours, call 413-324-3082. You may also email Lucas.McDiarmid@MASenate.gov.

The schedule is as follows:

Week 2- Worcester County 1

Week 3- Worcester County 2

Week 4- Hampden, Hampshire, and Western Worcester Counties

Thursday, Oct. 14

Office Hours Barre 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Barre Senior Center; 1-2 p.m. at Hubbardston Town Offices;

Monday, Oct. 18

Noon- 1 p.m. at Howe Village; 1:30-2:30 p.m. at East Brookfield Municipal Offices

Tuesday, Oct. 19

10:30 - 11:30 a.m. at Sturbridge Senior Center; noon-1 p.m. at Charlton Senior Center

Wednesday, Oct. 20

10 - 11 a.m. at West Brookfield Senior Center; 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at North Brookfield Senior Center; 1-2 p.m. at Brookfield Town Hall

Monday, Oct. 25

10 - 11 a.m. at Monson Town Hall; 1- 2 p.m. at Holland Town Hall

Oct. 26

10 - 11 a.m. at Warren Senior Center; 11:30 a.m. - noon at Brimfield Senior Center

Oct. 27

10-11 a.m. at Ware Senior Center; 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at Palmer Public Library

Oct. 28

Noon - 1 p.m. at Wales Senior Center

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Editor
Michael Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

Staff Writer
Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

Subscriptions
cgrismold@turley.com

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Journal Register

Ice artifacts a hidden treat at Rondeau's Dairy Bar

By Kayleigh Thomas
Correspondent

PALMER — The owner of Alvin Rondeau's Dairy Bar in Palmer really drills down when it comes to ice cream and anything else requiring cold storage.

Michael Rondeau has been collecting ice artifacts for nearly 41 years and showcases some of his best finds at the iconic Palmer creamery.

The ice artifacts date back to as far as 1908, including iceboxes used to hold blocks of melting ice in the days before refrigeration. Rondeau became a collector casually and just rolled with it despite some of the hard work that could be involved.

"I said to a guy, 'yeah I'm looking for ice boxes.' Well he said that there is a guy in Manchester that has one and I got over there and got it. It was debilitated and was laying on its side. It was so big it looked like a hot tub. I actually worked on it for two years down at the ice house. That one is stashed away and put into good shape," Rondeau said.

The ice box has since been restored, resembling a display case with glass doors and a painted



Turley Publications photos by Kayleigh Thomas
Michael Rondeau shows the inside of a vintage ice artifact.



Some of the many ice artifacts Michael Rondeau has collected over the years.

white interior.

Rondeau collects his artifacts from various locations such as West Warren, Pittsburg and Lunenburg. His next stop will be to go to the ice house near lake Michigan.

Older iceboxes used to have hollow walls with tin or zinc lining. Straw, sawdust, cork or seaweed would be used for the insulation. A large block of ice would be stored in a tray near the top.

Rondeau explained the ice cutting process in the late 1800s and early 1900s wasn't easy work.

"The ice would be cut by a saw and another guy would push it

with a pike," he said.

"Then they loaded it onto the wagon and went up the street towards an ice house. The ice would be cut off, scraped and go onto a conveyor belt then go into the ice house."

According to Rondeau, ice houses would occasionally burn down because they were made with sawdust and hay.

Rondeau used to demonstrate the ice cutting process on the pond on Shearer Street in Palmer during the late 1980s. From his experience, you have to have at least six inches of ice on the pond and have it good and solid.

"In the winter time, if you get up to a good foot, you could get two cuttings off a pond," he said.

Since refrigerators were introduced in the 1930s, ice companies evolved and relatively few remain. Refrigerators initially were made of wood and progressed into porcelain and then galvanized steel. Many vintage ice boxes were destroyed or just thrown out.

"Not a lot of people think about where ice comes from," Rondeau said. "They just open the refrigerator door and it's there."

Rondeau still works with ice making, including the recently concluded Big E and a couple of special other events. To prepare for the Big E Rondeau said he produced somewhere between 400,000 and 500,000 pounds of ice over two weeks.

Do you have ice artifacts?

Michael Rondeau is accepting any historical ice artifacts or old photographs that contribute to the ice industry. Items can be brought to the dairy bar, or sent to Rondeau care of P.O. box 934; Palmer, MA 01069.



Courtesy photo

Moon and Melon Shells, an oil painting by Lizzie Brown, formerly of Brimfield and now a resident of the Boston area, where she teaches and paints. Brown was a first prize winner at the second annual MAC Spring Art Show in 1995.

Monson Museum of Art debuts soon with reception/dedication

MONSON —The Monson Arts Council will introduce its newly formed Monson Museum of Art noon to 5 p.m. Oct. 23-24 at the House of Art, 200 Main Street.

On Saturday, Oct. 23, the public is invited to a reception celebrating an initial exhibit of 56 works of art to be held in conjunction with dedication at 2 p.m. of several updated galleries.

The collection currently includes 349 works.

In 2011, the Monson Arts Council received a generous gift of art from the Dr. Jean Porwoll estate. This collection has been combined with other art donations received throughout the years and held in storage by the council. Dr. Porwoll served on the Art Show Committee for many years and was a notable collector of work by area artists.

The MAC Art Show/Museum Committee has been refurbishing many of the works of art in the past year, with support from generous funds donated in memory of Sylvia Pyzocha, and a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The work will be exhibited in four galleries on the first floor of the House of Art.

Galleries have been updated with funding from the Town of Monson, Monson Savings Bank, Grace Makepeace Trust, additional anonymous donors. Reconstruction was donated by Reed Coles.

"This first Monson Museum of Art event offers a chance for people to experience some of this diverse collection of art and see our refurbished galleries," said Peter Barnett, president of the Council.

"We hope you will visit our new museum as we show off art work by our local artists, as well as area artists who have supported our shows for many years."

Covid 19 guidelines will be followed and wearing masks will be encouraged within the House of Art.

DEADLINE

The Journal Register has changed its firm deadline for public submissions to Mondays. To get your submission in for that week's edition, email Editor at mharrison@turley.com or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.

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Viewpoints

GUEST OPINION

There’s no vaccine for ailing relationships

The 2021-2022 school year is now well underway. Will it provide countless opportunities to demonstrate resilience and adaptability to students and others, or will it prove to be a struggle dominated by the next COVID wave? This year, preparation for school took a far different approach than the traditional shopping for new fall clothing, backpacks, and supplies of prior years. Schools have undergone elaborate classroom and building cleansing and upgrading of ventilation systems. New sensitivities about bus travel, layouts of everyday seating and nutritional environments, and health protection protocol and compliance are commonplace. School committees and educational leaders must accommodate constantly changing state and local health guidelines. Now, every day is a snow day-like adjustment.

The Commonwealth and our nation analyzed the learning loss resulting from remote learning of the past year. Thus, it should be no surprise that school systems were directed to transition from remote and hybrid instruction to focus on in-person learning. Whether the face has a mask or not remains conditional with certain mandated exceptions. The willingness of society to embrace the potential of working together versus polarization is where the rubber meets the road. Similarly, the western world faced a gathering threat of polarization following World War II, when Churchill summoned the energy of free people to unite and form lasting bonds to prevail against the Iron Curtain. He called the special relationships among democracies around the world the “sinews of peace.” These bonds fostered harmony and security through mutual assistance and collaboration for decades.

However, early signs of our ability to maintain these sinews are less than encouraging. We are a country that has overcome drought, the Great Depression, and the Cold War, and yet do we benefit from our experiences? Like the recent attempt to lay economic blame on the state’s vocational-technical school systems for encouraging its students to pursue further education, too many are inclined to criticize rather than cooperate. Unfortunately, simply criticizing without offering workable solutions tends to paralyze rather than propel opportunities to work collectively.

Unfortunately, there is no vaccine for repairing relationships once broken. As educators, we prepare students for success in an ever more challenging global society. As the COVID pandemic has shown, it is increasingly apparent that nothing is more certain than uncertainty. Not to suggest that uncertainty is good, only it must now be considered in any plan or process. Future success will depend upon one’s ability to adapt and learn from inevitable changes. While we teach our students to collaborate and work together to address the challenges we all face, we must all reject the lure of polarization and embrace every opportunity to find common ground. Only then can we truly offer the next generation a real potential for success.

Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick is superintendent-director of the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District in Upton and a resident of Monson.

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

If I die, what happens to the Social Security taxes I paid?

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I have heard that when my wife and I pass, the government keeps all we have paid into Social Security. Is this correct? Signed: Curious Senior

Dear Curious: The Social Security taxes paid while you and your wife were working weren’t deposited into a personal account for each of you; rather they were used to pay benefits to those collecting Social Security at the time. That’s the way the program has worked since enacted in 1935, and the way it still works today. The money you contributed has already been used to pay benefits to others.

However, hopefully you and your wife will live to claim your own benefits, and what you get when you claim will be based upon your earnings record over your entire lifetime, up to earnings you paid Social Security FICA payroll taxes on. Those historical earnings are adjusted for inflation and your lifetime average monthly earnings amount is determined, from which your base benefit is calculated. Just as you and your wife helped pay for those getting Social Security benefits while you were working and paying into Social Security, those now working and paying into the program will help pay benefits to you and your wife.

You may be interested to know that studies show most workers get back everything they’ve personally

contributed to Social Security within about three to five years of starting their benefits. One study I’m familiar with looked at how long it would take the average Social Security recipient who starts benefits at full retirement age (FRA) to get back money equal to what they paid into Social Security.

That study looked at four different hypothetical earners – one who earned only half of the national average wage index (AWI) for their lifetime; another who earned 100% of the national AWI for their lifetime; another who earned 150% of AWI for their lifetime; and yet another who earned the maximum annual payroll tax cap for their entire lifetime. The study then figured how much each of those individuals would have paid in Social Security payroll taxes over their 35 highest-earning years, which is the basis for computing Social Security benefits.

Then, the study looked at what their Social Security benefit would be at full retirement age and calculated how long it would take for each to recover the Social Security FICA taxes paid over their lifetime. The analysis revealed that the lowest earning beneficiary would get back everything paid into Social Security within about 34 months, and the highest earning beneficiary would get back everything paid within about 63 months. For clarity, this study looked at employed workers who pay Social Security FICA taxes; those who are self-employed and who must pay both the employee and employer portion of Social Security tax

must collect benefits longer to break even.

So, the answer to your specific question is that the money you and your wife contributed to Social Security while you were working has already been used to pay benefits for others who were getting benefits at the time you paid into the program. Hopefully, by the time you and your wife pass, you both will have received considerably more in Social Security benefits than the taxes you paid into the program while you were working. If you were an employee, you only need to collect benefits for about three to five years to be ahead of the game.

One final note for those who contend they could do better investing that money on their own: Not paying Social Security tax on employment earnings isn’t a personal option.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



On my bucket list: making a gourd birdhouse

Some people have bucket lists centered around travel or other types of adventure. At least two of my siblings have that spirit. Not me. My bucket list consists of things to do on the homestead, mostly things involving crafts or self sufficiency. I’ve crossed quilting, braiding rugs and soap making off the list, and I am halfway through finishing a floor cloth. Check.

Recently, as my family and I walked around a fall festival, I eyed a gourd turned into a birdhouse. Shiny and hard, this hourglass shaped abode looked equally attractive as it is durable. The large base would certainly make a cool place for a bird to fill with all sorts of nesting material. I just may have try my hand at making one of these. First, I have to either plan to buy the gourd or grow some myself in a future garden.

By far, the best, most commonly used gourd for crafting birdhouses is the bottle gourd (*Lagenaria siceraria*). It won’t get your attention by its color, which is rather bland compared to other gourds, but rather by its bulbous shape. Look for one at least six inches high and eight inches in diameter; this will make a comfy and cozy house for a variety of birds. Pass by those that are soft or bruised as they may likely rot.

After you’ve made your selection and have the gourd at home, wipe it down with rubbing alcohol to remove any bacteria and fungal spores present on the skin. Set it in an airy, well-ventilated spot up off of the ground to dry. I’ve seen them hung on indoor clotheslines or positioned on pallets or even old shutters. Whatever method you devise, be forewarned that the drying process can take quite awhile, anywhere from three to six months. Check the gourd often during the drying period and discard if it goes soft or gets wrinkled; surface mold is harmless and can be gently sanded off once dry. You’ll know that it is ready for crafting when you shake it and hear the seeds rattle inside! It will also have turned tan in color and will be surprisingly light in weight.

Now we are in the home stretch! With a power drill and a one-quarter inch bit in place, bore a hole in the gourd’s neck about an inch down from the top. Later on, a wire will be strung through this hole to hang the birdhouse. A couple of inches down from

there drill at least four holes to encircle the neck of the gourd. These will moderate temperatures within the house and prevent overheating, a problem that can prove fatal to young birds.

Next, drill a few holes with the same size bit in the bottom of the gourd for drainage. The final hole you will drill will be the entrance hole. Most birds are very specific about the size of the opening to their abode. Chickadees prefer an opening about one and one-eighth of an inch in diameter, whereas purple martins prefer one two inches around; use the appropriate drill bit to fit either of these circumstances.

Research the special needs of other birds you’d like to draw to your yard and plan for them by the size gourd you choose and the entrance hole you drill. Once the hole has been drilled, use a bent coat hanger to scour the inside of the gourd and rid it of seeds and dried residue.

To enable your birdhouse to better withstand the elements it can be painted with an exterior oil-based white enamel paint. White is chosen because it will reflect the sun’s rays and make for cooler inside temperatures. Another, more natural method of preservation that can be used is wax. An application of beeswax or butcher’s wax will help to repel water from the birdhouse. Use a piece of sturdy wire to hang the house. Again, some research may be necessary to determine how high the house should be hung for the bird you are trying to attract.

If you find this project to be so much fun that you’d like to make even more birdhouses, consider growing your own bottle gourds next year. Give them a head start indoors and then provide them with ample room to roam, fertile soil, much sun and moisture. Harvest once vines have dried and then proceed as above.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekenedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid
Columnist

Letters to the Editor

Monson’s character and charm at risk

Monson is known for being a beautiful rural town, great community where people help each other, a place with charming character to be protected. The beauty of Monson and kindness of our residents attracts new people who wish to make their home here.

We have a long history of families staying in Monson for generations, including the Nothes. Our family has great longevity, love for and pride in Monson. I have a passion for making our wonderful town better.

Monson’s residents and our town government through our various boards and committees (Planning Board, Finance Committee, Select Board, etc.) are very tuned in on external threats to the character of the town as we should be. When deciding things like whether a business like Dollar General fits in with the town’s character, we carefully consider whether the proposed business fits the by-laws. We think about how the building will look, how the company will conduct business and how their business activities in town affect residents, homeowners, and existing businesses.

We worry about the landscape and picture what people will see when they drive down Main Street.

Unfortunately, Monson has internal threats to the character of the town that aren’t being addressed. Civil discourse in town meetings and on social media needs to improve. There’s a flow of misinformation and rise of hateful or bullying comments fueled by a loud minority creating a terrible look for Monson.

There’s an overlooked majority of rational residents across all political affiliations in Monson who are not being heard. Many are fearful to speak up. Some residents are quietly discouraged. Some may question whether to continue to make their home here. While our town government is busy listening to the squeaky wheel, they are ignoring the other three wheels.

Monson’s reputation is also affected by a Facebook group called Monson Speaks, which is independent of town government. Monson Speaks can be a wonderful resource when it’s used by residents to share information, updates and events. However, administrators recently allowed an event for a known hate group to be advertised. Admins refused to remove it when asked repeatedly. This is especially bad because 1.) With Monson in the name, Monson Speaks is sometimes perceived as affiliated with our town government (it’s not) and 2.) Regardless of whether people realize it’s separate, there are nearly 6,500 members whose opinions of Monson are influenced by the content. Thousands of Monson residents and countless others from neighboring communities or out-of-state read it, even if they don’t openly react or comment and 3.) Some people moving to Monson will scan Monson Speaks or google Monson, etc. to learn about our community. Any negative content and aggressive dialogue they find may influence them.

Some may decide against moving here.

We all have a responsibility to raise the level of civil discourse, reject the flow of misinformation, discourage hate speech and reject hate groups. I ask our Monson town government to do a better job at town meetings encouraging respectful civil discourse. I ask the administrators of Monson Speaks to do a better job enforcing their group rules.

We may want to pull together some type of task force of community leaders, town officials and interested residents to address improving civil discourse in board/committee meetings and on social media.

Let’s work together and be better. The character and charm of our town and the future of our beautiful, rural, neighborly and kind community depend on it.

Karen Nothe-Valley
Monson

Election letters to the editor welcome

The *Journal Register* welcomes readers to participate in this year’s election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to mharrison@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday’s newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call editor Michael Harrison at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor’s Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Journal Register.

Letters to the editor policy

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must confirm authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Please send opinions to: **The Journal Register Letter to the Editor** 24 Water St., Palmer MA 01069, or by e-mail to: mharrison@turley.com

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

COMMENTS ON CONGRESS

Why I’m optimistic about the future

By Lee Hamilton
Guest columnist

One of the great privileges of teaching and working on a university campus is the chance to be in regular touch with young people. Even better, I sometimes get asked to give talks elsewhere and to meet with young people of all kinds and descriptions, sometimes one on one, sometimes in small groups, sometimes with as many as 50 or 60 people.

Over the past few years, this has given me a chance to observe the upcoming generation of citizens and leaders, and what I’ve seen heartens me. Not least because the young people I’ve met are, for the most part, deeply concerned about the future of the country. They can be sharply critical, but it’s clear that most of them take a fundamental pride in what this nation stands for and how far it’s traveled over the centuries.

This shows up in a fundamental respect for the country’s diversity, and an overall respect for many of the institutions of representative democracy: the military, the courts, law enforcement, the health care system, though Congress often comes in for some sharp words. To be sure, they can also be critical of these

institutions’ flaws, but I haven’t encountered anyone who wants to tear them up and start over again. Instead, they want to fix what’s in front of them. They’re curious about how the nation’s institutions work, even skeptical, but they don’t reject them outright as irredeemably flawed.

There are several key issues that dominate our conversations: climate change, COVID-19, student loans and college debt. If you ask what problems they’re most concerned about, racial issues also loom large: they see racial inequality and repairing historic wrongs as a huge and important challenge to our representative democracy. Interestingly, more than the older people I encounter, they will often speak up in favor of U.S. engagement with the world and want the U.S. to exert a helpful leadership role.

When it comes to domestic politics, I’ve been struck by the extent to which the students I meet seem interested in making voting easier. Not infrequently, they’ll bring up the idea of making Election Day a national holiday. And they seem to like the idea of automatic voter registration for citizens, to encourage participation.

The Journal Register

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PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

EDITOR
Michael Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

STAFF WRITER
Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

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SPORTS EDITOR
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FIREHOUSE | from page 1

“I think just the confusion in the room tonight (is one reason). I’d be very uncomfortable moving this forward.”

Selectwoman Mary Hull didn’t agree.

“I don’t really understand why we’re waiting,” she said.

Hull referred to a series of open house events the Monson Fire Department has held since spring to help create awareness and suggested the town could do more to promote them.

“”It seems like they’re doing a lot of things to reach out to people. We can put a sign out ‘come talk to these guys.’” Hull said.

Wolowicz stuck to her position that the town should move deliberately.“Because we don’t know that the town can afford this,” she said.

“This is a very fiscally conservative town and the budgets should stay fiscally conservative and this is a large ask. I support the fire department, but I have to look at the whole town and the totality of that. At this point I don’t know our financial advisor has given us the green light that we can afford this.”

She said financing all of the \$16 million debt, even over multiple decades, would put the town “close to the cap” and not well positioned to meet any large unforeseen expanses.

Monson Fire Chief Brian Harris, who sat next to Wolowicz during the meeting and looked increasingly concerned while she spoke, said in the past the town has “raised its debt ceiling” when needed.

The poor conditions at the fire house have been documented in this newspaper and some of the issues were mentioned at the Sept. 28 meeting, such as a leaky roof, lack of space for equipment and the exposure of the equipment and firefighters to contaminating fumes and unsafe living quarters.

An architect also talked about the lack of parking and that the aging building on the whole is not up to code, including not being ADA complaint.

Pros and cons

The architect’s presentation included a snapshot comparison of the two plans under consideration. Among the points made: Renovating and expanding the existing building would cost \$15.9 million and would require some sort of temporary arrangement for the department’s employees. Building from scratch would cost slightly more – an estimated \$16.1 million – but the property identified for the site, the former South Main Street School. 293 Main Street, had been designated a “brownfield” that needed mitigation in the past.

Further studies would be needed to ensure no environmental issues remain and confirm it’s a viable site.

Renovating and expanding the current site would take longer than building from the ground up, the architect said. Another advantage to a brand new building would be a reduction in energy costs because it would be designed for greater efficiency.

“It only seems to make sense to go with a new building,” Harris said.

Jamie Farnum The town’s finance director, said based on median home value, it would cost the average Monson homeowner an estimated \$220 a year in a tax increase if the full \$16 million was financed over 30 years.

What’s next

One possibility floated at the meeting is allocating \$60,000 to investigate the viability of the former school property before taking any further action. Ultimately, voters at a special town meeting likely will decide what happens next. Harris agreed that will help inform town officials where they stand.

“That will gauge (the public’s) appreciate for it,” he said.

HAMILTON | from page 1

purpose to forest civic interest and civic participation in the affairs of the area surrounding Hamilton Reservoir.” Collectively, FHRA is a group of Holland and nearby Union, Conn., residents that actively engage with the Town of Holland to promote projects and procedures that ensure the well being of the lake.

However, membership is not limited to the residents of these two towns.

“Anyone can join the FHRA – whether they are on or around the Lake, in town or not,” said McCooe.

Since its formation, FHRA has made it part of its mission to work alongside town officials, environmental contractors, and the Board of Selectmen to help promote the health, safety and preservation of the reservoir. Over the years, the association has accomplished an impressive list of goals regarding the Lake’s protection, including multiple grants that have resulted in the installation of seven new catch basins around the lake and watershed, funding major projects to control runoff into the water, building a floating sign for the north basin near the dam to warn boaters and post the speed limit. The Association proactively worked to find solutions to a variety of other lake-related issues.

Members of FHRA meet throughout the year to discuss the well-being of the lake. During one recent meeting, board members discussed the organization’s upcoming roles in the inspection and maintenance of Hamilton Reservoir Dam, safety regulations and boating violations, and forthcoming events. McCooe said the Association’s work is never really done. For every accomplishment, a new goal is created.

“The betterment of

SPOONS | from page 1

inexpensive detector.

“My first find was an Indian head penny dated 1888. I was hooked. I have been detecting for seven years now,” Lowell said.

He never knows what piece of history he will dig from the ground.

“One of my greatest finds was a coin that turned out to be a brothel token,” Lowell said.

“I found it at the elementary school here in town, and after doing some research, I found out there was a hotel located where the school sits now.”

Social media has always played a part in his detecting and research. Lowell likes to post his finds on his Facebook page, but he never thought one of his posts would gather so much attention.

It all started with some trees.

“I had some trees removed from my yard. The gentleman that removed them owns an empty lot here in town, and I asked permission to go detecting there,” Lowell said.

“After exploring for about an hour, I came upon a pile of silverware and discovered one had writing on it. So, I did a quick clean with some ketchup, and it shined up nice.”

When Lowell got the spoon home and cleaned it up further, he discovered that it was the baby spoon of Robert Eddy, dating 1910. Lowell decided to post pictures of the antique spoon on the Wales town Facebook page to see if anyone knew of the person it had originally belonged to so he could return it to his relatives.

It didn’t take long for the post to become a community effort to get the spoon back to its family.

First, Kim Holstrom, from Sturbridge, discovered Eddy’s obituary and posted it.

“My hobby is looking up information for family trees. I really enjoy it,” Kim said.

“When I saw Cheyenne’s post, I looked up the closest federal census to that birth year, and Wales being so small it was easy to trace relatives – leading to Robert Eddy’s obituary. I am very interested in connecting pieces to the past. Generations have come before us and are connected so deeply to us, but they are, in essence, strangers. This is intriguing! I hope that we will be able to retain the research we are doing now so future generations will have access.”

Then, Lindsaye O posted a picture

of Eddy’s gravestone.

“I volunteer independently with the Find-a-Grave website,” Lindsaye O said.

“I enjoy taking pictures of cemeteries and headstones. I simply took the info we already knew about the spoon and plugged it into the free website. And there he was!”

Lindsaye O describes herself as an amateur genealogist.

“I’ve been lucky enough to trace my own ancestry back to my sixth great grandfather. I think it’s so important to get as much information recorded digitally ASAP. That way, when future generations are looking for their own family history, they will find records and pictures, etc.”

When Lowell posted in the Wales group about his find, Steffie Young from nearby Holland was also following the conversation.

“Several people came up with clues. Once I knew Eddy’s birth and death dates, I went into my sleuthing,” Young said.

“I signed into Ancestry.com and hunted. I built a mini tree and found parents, grandparents, and then built back down to who his cousins would be.”

This led Young to a family connection to the spoon several states away.

“I found a relative in about 48 hours. I contacted Megan Ramsden first through the Ancestry message system. Then I sent her the pictures of the spoon and the background of where it was found. Megan knew of him!”

Young said she should have been a spy.

“I have found peoples lost relatives, including my mother’s half-sister in Maine.”

When Megan saw the picture, she messaged her parents and uncle. They were elated when they saw the image of the spoon.

“That’s uncle Bob’s!” Megan’s uncle Don said.

“He was my mom’s oldest brother. Uncle Bob was shell-shocked during World War II.”

Don filled in more of Robert Eddy’s story.

“When he came home, he lived out back of his parent’s house in a trailer without running water or refrigeration. He cut trees to sell for firewood to make money.”

According to his gravestone, Robert Eddy passed away in 1989. He nev-

COLUMN | from page 4

As for their own participation, I often ask if anyone wants to run for public office. I’m always pleasantly surprised at the number of hands that go up. More than a few want to pursue jobs in government at all levels, arguing that they can make a greater contribution there than they might otherwise. They recognize that working for government is not a path to great wealth, yet they’re still committed to that idea. Perhaps most heartening, even those who have no de-

sire to serve in government confess an interest in serving their communities and improving their corner of the world. I always come away stirred by the number of these young people who speak with knowledge and commitment about their desire to be of service.

To be sure, it’s bracing to sit in on their discussions about where the country’s headed. They’re often robust, with plenty of differences of opinion. But underlying these conversations is a gener-



Cheyenne Lowell's metal detecting hobby helped him return a long-lost heirloom to its family.



This baby spoon, a formerly lost family heirloom, is from 1910.

“I’ve been as far as New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Maine searching for lost things,” he said.

This led Lowell to another mystery.

“I’m also currently trying to find the owner of a class ring,” he said.

Lowell found the ring in upstate New York, and it hails from Mather High School in Chicago, Illinois. Lowell hopes, with more help from social media, he will reunite the ring with its owner.

When asked, Lowell was hesitant to endorse any specific brand of metal detector.

“I currently swing the Minelab equinox 800 for a detector and own three other machines as well. It’s hard to recommend a detector. There are so many good machines out there; it’s kind of a personal preference.” However, Lowell loves metal detecting and recommends the hobby to others.

“It’s an addicting hobby but comes with a few pluses – it’s good exercise, I hang with good friends, and I find really cool stuff!”

You never know what you are going to find when you go digging.

al optimism about the future, and, quite notably in this political climate, a wide tolerance for the viewpoints of others and a willingness to listen to one another. I wish it were more common among adults.

The one other thing I’ll note is that fairly regularly, I come across students, of all races, ethnicity, and description, who are clearly talented, engaged and impressive. They are, I believe, marked for leadership. And if I’m right, we’re

going to be in good hands.

Lee Hamilton is a senior advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

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Lack of cell coverage annoying? Here’s how to help change it

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER – Tired of those ‘dead zones?’ For the entire month of October, Palmer residents have the chance to combat wireless cell phone coverage issues by taking a three-minute Cell Coverage Mapping Survey.

The Massachusetts-based company is currently providing a consumer-centric data collection and analytics survey which will identify wireless cellphone service issues in Palmer and find solutions for the community, such as building more cell towers in optimal locations.

This survey is free, which officials hope will encourage residents to participate.

Town Planner and Economic Development Director of the Town of Palmer Linda Leduc said the company will provide mass coverage mapping, so the next cell towers will go up in areas that currently have wireless cell phone coverage gaps. Helping pinpoint areas not on broader maps will help.

“The mapping service has found that those federal maps are not very accurate when you get down on the ground,” Leduc said.

“For us to have access to these maps, once everything is done, will be useful for the town of Palmer in understanding if we need new cell towers.”

Leduc said participating in the survey helps residents all across the community.

“To understand where there are dead zones is useful for cell phone companies,” Leduc said.

“If you know a lot of people are reporting that there’s dead zone here, there can be provider space on a cell tower that already exists. Also, that question of do we need cell towers in town and where can be answered. The entire point is to get the service provided, whether it’s with a new antenna or an existing tower. Telling a provider, they need to do better at providing service or putting a new cell tower up, is helpful.”

The survey, which can be accessed at cellcoverage-mapping.com, will close on Oct. 31. For more information on this survey, contact Vice-President of CCM Brad Gorham at 978-476-5427 or at bradg@wirelessra.com. Also, Leduc can be contacted at lleduc@townof-palmer.com.

Compost dates/times in Palmer

The following schedule will provide dates the compost area off of Old Warren Road in Palmer will be opened to allow town residents to drop off grass clippings and leaves during the fall months. Place lawn debris in brown paper bags, (no plastic bags allowed) and do not leave bags up against the locked gate. The town asks that you also practice social distancing.

Saturday, Oct. 16	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 17	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 23	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 24	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 30	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 31	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 6	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 7	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 13	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 14	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 20	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 21	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Town water official selected for Commonwealth award

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

MONSON — Since 2002, Craig Jalbert has served as the superintendent of the town’s Water and Sewer Commission and now his many years of service is being recognized through the Massachusetts Water Works Association’s Executive Director Award.

When beginning his 19-year career with the Water and Sewer Commission in 2002, Jalbert said it didn’t take long to know he made the right career choice not long after starting work in the field.

“I recognized that it was something that I wanted to do,” Jalbert said.

“I was quite interested in it and although it was challenging, I had some great teachers to learn from along the way.”

One of the most important skills Jalbert said he picked up over the years at the water and sewer commission includes learning how to deal with people and understanding when they’re not under optimum circumstances.

“That was probably the most

valuable skill that I’ve worked on my entire career,” Jalbert. “The second skill is probably time management and organizing my schedule. You have to prioritize all the time.”

The advice Jalbert said he has for anyone interested in following his footsteps is to look for the available jobs out there.

“There are job postings all the time,” Jalbert said.

“Water Systems need workers to get things started. I think it’s a great career. It takes a long time to get to the place that I am in, but it has its benefits. I find it most it’s very worthwhile.”

Jalbert said he is happy his efforts in providing the residents of Monson safe drinking water, along with other responsibilities, are being honored by Executive Director of the Massachusetts Water Works Association Jennifer Pederson. This award is given out once a year to an active or affiliate member, whose knowledge and work in the waterworks industry, who also has an outstanding service to the association.

“I have a great deal of respect for Jennifer Pederson and the ter-

rific job she does,” Jalbert said. “This award means a lot to me.”

Pederson said Jalbert’s determination and work ethic is why she decided to choose him the award.

“This past year Craig has done a lot of work in advocating for Monson’s and other water systems, regarding the DEP’s proposed regulations, that are going to impact registered water users,” Pederson said.

“Craig is from a very small department, and I think he has gone above and beyond, reaching out to his elected leaders and the media and trying to make sure that everyone knew about the impact of the DEP’s regulations.”

Jalbert is going to receive his award on Nov. 5 at the annual Massachusetts Water Works Associations annual meeting and awards banquet. In the meantime, Jalbert said he looks forward to continuing to work at the water and sewer commission.

“I plan to leave it in a better condition than when I found it,” Jalbert said.

“That’s all I can do. That’s all anyone can hope to do.”

What’s happening at the Palmer Library?

The Palmer Public Library at 1455 North Main Street, has all new programs for teens and young adults this month while existing favorite activities, such as the Writers Circle, Anime Club, and Book Club continue. For more information and to register for events when required, go to palmerlibrary.org.

To speak with a librarian, call 413-283-3330.

Here’s what’s new:
Witches Brew Slime Making 6-7 p.m. Oct. 14
For ages 6+ Registration required.

Teen Take & Make Craft: Book Page Pumpkin Garland
Open to ages 12-18
Kits include pumpkins cut out of book pages, yarn or twine, paint, glitter
Registration Required. Kits picked up in house or via curbside services for the entire month of October!
(See our website or email

bkenedy@palmerlibrary.org/ call 413-283-3330 ext.128)

Mysterious Massachusetts (in person) 6 p.m. Oct. 26 For ages 12+

Every state has its ghost stories, but no other state has the Dover Demon or the Salem Witch Trials. From sea-side ghosts, to UFOs over the Berkshires, Massachusetts has a rich history of paranormal legend, odd events, and strange denizens. In this workshop, we have a look at some of the most famous of Massachusetts paranormal history. Hosted by Sarah Hodge-Wetherbe. Registration encouraged.

Make Your Own Spell Book Decoration Craft (in person) 3:30-5:30 p.m. Oct. 12 For ages 12+

Using upcycled books, create your own magical Halloween decor! Register for one of our 30-minute slots to facilitate sharing of supplies. Supplies are limited and registration is required.

Teen Pumpkin Carving (outdoors) 4-5:30 p.m. Oct. 28
Ages 12-18. Registration Required.

Teen Halloween Party! 4:30-8 p.m. Oct. 30 For ages 13-18

Costume Contest, games, crafts, snacks, pizza!
Outdoor movie screening of Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark (PG-13) from 6-8 p.m.
Party hosted in the fenced side yard of the library/back parking lot. Pickup and drop off at front of building (street facing side in the horseshoe).
Registration Encouraged but not required. Sign up on our website or email bkenedy@palmerlibrary.org/ Call 413-283-3330x128
This is a special after-hours event. The library will NOT be open to the general public during the event.

Palmer Cultural Council seeks funding proposals

The Palmer Cultural Council is now accepting proposals for arts-related grants. All local residents, organizations, and schools are encouraged to apply.

The deadline to apply is 11:59 p.m. Oct. 15.

According to Council spokesperson Beth Zelazo, these grants can support a variety of artistic projects and activities in Palmer – including exhibits, festivals, field trips, short-term artist residencies, or performances in schools, workshops, and lectures.

The Palmer Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

This year, the Palmer Cultural Council will distribute about \$11,400 in grants. Previously funded projects include: a Domestic Violence Poster Exhibit by Stephen Lewis, Davis Bates-storyteller, Dr. “The Machine” Jesse Green from American Chainsaw demonstration, Ed The Wizard-magician, Hilltown Families – A community-based Education Network, Len Longstreeth – musician, Kirk Whipple – musician, Dance Program and Nolumbeka Project – educational program on Native Americans.

Palmer Cultural Council Funding Priorities for fiscal year 2022 are:

- A high priority will be given to projects that encourage community involvement and a diverse audience.
- Artists and groups must have booked a program date and time with a local venue. A confirmation of venue letter must be submitted with your application.
- Organizations or individuals that have received funding for the last three years will receive lower priority.

For local guidelines and complete information on the Palmer Cultural Council, contact Zelazo at palmer-culturalcouncil.com. Application forms and more information about the Local Cultural Council Program are available online at mass-culture.org.

Baystate Wing awards \$80K in grants in regional support

PALMER — Baystate Wing Hospital has announced an investment of \$80,000 in grants to benefit local community-based nonprofit organizations.

The grant awards were given to the Ware Fire Department to support Emergency Medical Services and paramedic training and to the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corp. – the Quaboag Connector to support local transportation in the region.

“These grant investments are one of the many ways Baystate Wing Hospital can recognize and support the important work of our community partners,” said Molly Gray, president and chief administrative officer for Baystate Health’s Eastern Region, which includes Baystate Wing Hospital and Baystate Mary Lane Outpatient Center.

“Community partnerships are essential to building and sustaining a culture of health and wellness within our communities.”

Programs supported by the hospital’s grant investments include:

The Ware Fire Department \$70,000: The \$70,000 grant was awarded to the Ware Fire Department in support of operations and EMS Paramedic training for members of the Ware Fire/EMS Team.

Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation: The \$10,000 grant to the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation will provide continued support to the Quaboag Connector Transportation Initiative which addresses the lack of transportation to employment, education, healthcare, workforce training, shopping, and benefit services within and outside the region.

The service which began in January 2017 has provided thousands of rides to community members. Currently during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Quaboag Connector continues to provide close to 900 rides monthly. In support of community needs, the Quaboag Connector will offer Saturday service and support the launch of two pilot projects focused on the implementation of scheduling software and establishing a fixed route shuttle along Route 9, connecting PVTA with WRTA.

“Since 2017 Baystate Wing Hospital and the Baystate Mary Lane medical staff have invested \$170,000 in the Quaboag Connector,” said Sheila Cuddy, executive director of the QVDCD.

“This service is a lifeline for many members of our community. QVDCD is grateful for the sustaining support from Baystate Wing Hospital and their staff for this initiative. As part of our continued commitment to reduce health disparities in our region we are proud to partner with the Ware Fire/EMS team and the Quaboag Connector to help meet the unique needs in the region and work collaboratively to create local solutions.”

Wales arts grants available

WALES — Proposals for Wales community-oriented arts, humanities, and science programs are welcome and grant applications are open and due by Oct. 15.

The Wales Cultural Council invites organizations, schools, and individuals to apply for grants that support cultural activities in the community. Wales has been awarded \$5,100 from the Commonwealth to award for local programs in 2022.

According to Wales Cultural Council Chair Susan Gregory, these grants can support a variety of projects and activities in Wales for all ages. Contact lcc@town-ofwales.net with any questions. To apply for a grant visit massculturalcouncil.org/local-council/wales.

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HOLLAND COMMUNITY CENTER

Magdalana is back and new activities and menus for October

HOLLAND — Magdalana is back again, at 1 p.m. Oct. 20, this time to talk about “Holidays and Remembering Winters Past” recalling family traditions and winter experiences.

Who celebrated with you? Those outdoor winter activities shared, and the reality of Holiday Blues for some will be discussed. Events with Magdalana are always well received. This event is sponsored by the Holland Cultural Council. If you would also like to join for lunch (shrimp and tomato scampi) please RSVP.

The Holland Community Center at 40 Brimfield Road offers fun, educational, and life-enriching activities for all ages. There are nutritious, homemade meals as well. Here’s a look at what’s going on this month:

Every Monday
Mah Jongg – 10:15 a.m.
Take out Lunch – 11:45 a.m.
Lunch – noon
Texas Hold’em – 4:30 p.m.

Every Tuesday
Crafters Social – 10:30 a.m.
Dominoes – 10:30 a.m.

Every Wednesday
Mix it Up – 10 a.m.
Take out Lunch – 11:45 a.m.
Lunch – noon
Mah Jongg – 1 p.m.

Every Thursday
Food Drive – 11 a.m.
Cribbage – 12:15 p.m.
Pitch – 5 p.m.
Yoga – 6 p.m.

Dominoes – Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.
Did you play dominoes as a kid? Have you heard of the Mexican Train version? We are playing every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. If you’ve played before, or you’re new to the game, it won’t matter. We have lots of fun. We just learned about an app for counting the dots so you can play using dots, or using numbers, whichever you prefer. We already have a few new players and they’re having a good time. RSVP encouraged but walk-ins allowed.

Helping Wales Community Pantry
We are still collecting food for the Wales Community Pantry. The Pantry serves the residents of Holland, Wales, and Brimfield. They need peanut butter, jelly, Spam, cereal, and other nonperishable goods. You can drop off food anytime or day the Center is open. Monetary Donations can be made out to Wales Community Pantry. Monetary Donations help the Pantry to order fresh meats and produce.

Need pet food?
Here Today, Adopted Tomorrow has been very generous helping the residents of Holland and other towns by bringing dog and cat food here each week. If you need some for your animals, please stop by any time we are open.

Hungry?
You can dine-in or take out meals on Mondays and Wednesdays. Take out Pick up is 11:45 a.m.-noon. Dine-in is at noon. A \$3 donation RSVP required. Due to a wonderful donation from the Holland Council on Aging, any Holland senior resident will be able to get their lunch for a \$3 suggested donation. *
For a \$5 suggested donation you will get the entrée, a side and dessert. All ages are welcome to order.

October menu:

Oct. 18 – American Chop Suey
Oct. 20 – Shrimp & Tomato Scampi
Oct. 25 – Food prepared by Angry Panda Food Co
(Chicken and Broccoli Stir Fry, Fried Rice, Egg Rolls)
Oct. 27– Chicken Pot Pie

Note: The reservation needs to be in by the Thursday the week before so Rose will have ample time to get ingredients. Unfortunately, unlike some other centers, we do not have access to a food bank or commodities monthly, so the prices are higher for many items at this time.

Special October Events

10/11 CLOSED
10/1 COA Meeting 10:15 a.m.
10/13 FoHCC Meeting 1 p.m.
10/18 Book Club 1 p.m.
10/18 Bingo 4 p.m.
10/18 Papercrafts 1 p.m.
10/20 Magdalana 1 p.m.
10/25 Papercrafts 1 p.m.
10/27 Movie 1 p.m.

Want more?
Here’s are other activities that may interest you:
Crafter’s Social and Quilting - Bring whatever you would like to work on, or learn something new from these talented ladies, or just sit and chat. Tuesday mornings at 10:30.

Go online for info
town.holland.ma.us/community-center
Be sure to check out the new Outreach page on Facebook at Holland-Outreach-Holland-MA.
* Please have exact change if possible.

Planning Board votes for zoning overlay

Thoroughbred racing to be allowed

By Paula Ouimette
Staff Writer

STURBRIDGE – The Sturbridge Planning Board voted 7-0 on Sept. 28, to pass a proposed zoning overlay district that will allow a thoroughbred racing track. The proposed zoning by-law amendment now requires a favorable vote at Special Town Meeting, on Oct. 28, for the project to move forward.

It must also be approved by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission and the state must be willing to create a new exit on Route 84 so there is direct access to the property on Breakneck Road.

The proposed amendments will insert a new Article XXI – Agricultural Entertainment Overlay District within the Zoning Bylaw. This section will “establish an overlay district which will allow for the placement of Equine Centers and related and complementary uses in suitable locations in the Town without altering the requirements applicable to uses permitted in the underlying zoning districts.”

A definition for “Equine Center” would be included in the article, in addition to a zoning map amendment that will establish an Agricultural Entertainment Overlay District consisting of the following parcels of land: 180 Breakneck Road – MLBU 170-/0 5045-180; 16 Cross Road – MBLU 237-04756-016; and 181 Breakneck Road 170-/0 5056 – 181.

Town Planner Jean Bubon explained that the town was approached by New England Horse Park LLC last year about the proposed Sturbridge Agricultural and Equestrian Center, a 235-acre facility featuring a thoroughbred horse racetrack, therapeutic riding, community farms, athletic fields, 2.3 miles of nature trails, a state-of-the-art biodigester and more.

Bubon said one of the components needed to authorize this project, was an amendment to the zoning bylaw, to allow for this type of use. After receiving support from the Board of Selectmen, Bubon, along with Town Administrator Jeff Bridges, town counsel, and the proponents of the project, have been working since last year to create a draft zoning bylaw. This public hearing is a step required by law.

Bubon said the day of the public hearing, she received 39 emails and 14 phone calls from interested parties. She said it was difficult to determine where most of the correspondence came from, but she said some were from out of state. Most of the correspondence voiced opposition to horse racing for “ethical and treatment reasons,” she said.

Three letters received were in support of the application. Bubon said a few of the correspondence mentioned the zoning bylaw in passing, but most were in relation to horse racing in general.

Public comment
A resident said he had only recently been made aware of this project last month, and felt it was being rushed before the public had all of the information. He questioned what the downside would be of delaying this until next year. Bubon said all information since August of 2020 has been posted on the town website and discussed in public meetings.

A Breakneck Road resident asked for clarification on when racing days would occur. Bubon said there would be three weekends, with no more than 10 race days. The resident also questioned how they could vote on such a huge project, without any studies (such as traffic) being completed beforehand.

A Leadmine Road resident asked how many horses would be kept at the center, and how many people will be living there. Bubon said the number of dwelling units are limited in the bylaw, up to two freestanding dwelling units to be occupied by the owner of the facility or by an employee operator of the facility, caretaker or watchman of the facility. Robert George, of George & Davis P.C., said on race days, there would be around 200 horses.

A resident mentioned that the document does not include the prohibition of historic horse race machines, which New England Horse Park LLC said they would not use. The resident said the document should reflect that in the same as it prohibits slot machines. George said historic horse race machines are illegal and not allowed, “it’s not going to happen.”

Many residents echoed concerns about traffic on local roads, and the impact on the community. George said there is no project without the construction of the I-84 interchange. They will not permit access to and from the site utilizing local roads.

A resident from Union, Connecticut said the project could have detrimental effects of wetlands and waterways. Bubon said the project also has to receive approval from the Conservation Commission, which will address these concerns. Karen Davis, of George & Davis P.C. said they have contacted the Conservation Commission and are following their procedures.

Another resident said he has been attending public meetings for 60 years and acknowledged that town government was not easy, but he felt they “had the cart before the horse” when it comes to zoning his property.

Armenian Food Festival Celebrates National Cuisine

INDIAN ORCHARD — St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church members will hold their annual Armenian Food Festival noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 23, as an in-person and take-out event at 135 Goodwin Street in Indian Orchard.

Visitors will enjoy a variety of traditional Armenian foods. Meals will be served featuring two kinds of grilled kebab – shish kebab (marinated lamb chunks) and losh kebab (seasoned ground lamb and beef) – served with rice pilaf, fasoulia (Armenian green beans), and pita bread. For lighter fare, visitors can order spinach-cheese pie.

Baked goods will feature traditional Armenian breads and pastries including choerag, paklava, kourabia, and khadayif.

Cash or checks accepted. To place a take-out order or for more information, call Sima Setian Pariseau 413-262-7251 or email spariseau@charter.net.



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Email: fdominici@bppc.com

Apply now for Monson arts grants

The Monson Cultural Council is seeking grant proposals from organizations, schools, and individuals for community-orientated projects in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences. These grants can support a variety of projects including lectures, workshops, performances in schools, exhibits, and festivals and must take place between Jan. 1, 2022, and Dec. 31, 2022.

Monson priorities can be found online at mass-culture.org/Monson along with the link to the online application. The deadline for applications is Oct. 15.

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Bob the Bike Man donates 20 bicycles to Chicopee youths



City Council President Shane Brooks, Mayor John Vieau and Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi attended a Pedal Thru Youth event at the Boys and Girls Club of Chicopee on Sept. 28. (Staff photos by Dalton Zbierski)



[L to R] Bob Charland, founder of Pedal Thru Youth, and Josh Scaife, a volunteer, have worked together to donate more than 1,000 bicycles to area youths.



Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Julie Copoulos, City Council President Shane Brooks, Mayor John Vieau, Pedal Thru Youth founder Bob Charland and volunteer Josh Scaife collaborated on a Sept. 28 event in Chicopee that saw 20 youths receive bikes.



Twenty bikes were donated to youths at the Boys and Girls Club of Chicopee on Sept. 28.



Bob "The Bike Man" Charland was awarded with a citation from Chicopee Mayor John Vieau on Wednesday.



Bob "The Bike Man" Charland speaks at the Boys and Girls Club of Chicopee on Sept. 28.



Bob "The Bike Man" Charland presents a Chicopee youth with a new bicycle on Sept. 28.

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor

When faced with his own mortality, Bob "The Bike Man" Charland did not cower; he chose instead to give back. Since 2017, he's helped donate more than 1,900 bicycles to children and families in need to promote active lifestyles.

Upon receiving a brain diagnosis that will prove fatal, Charland shifted his focus to positively impacting youths. He founded Pedal Thru Youth, a non-profit organization that donates repaired and rebuilt bikes to children and families who may not be able to afford their

own.

On Sept. 28, Pedal Thru Youth supplied 20 children and teens with bicycles at the Boys and Girls Club of Chicopee. Charland, a Deputy Sheriff with the Hampden County Sheriff's Department, was joined by law enforcement professionals from numerous agencies.

"It shows the positive side of law enforcement. It doesn't show the tougher side. It shows us as real people," said Charland. "We target poverty areas. People who live in poverty areas usually see law enforcement for more of a negative reason, but what we're doing could change that thought or perception."

In 2017, Charland, a former nightclub bouncer who had been beaten on numerous occasions, discovered that he had a cyst in the back of his brain and a tumor in his frontal lobe. Charland has battled headaches, tremors and memory loss, and a doctor informed him that his brain was in the condition of a 90-year-old's.

Knowing that the end is near has not discouraged Charland from making a lasting impact on countless individuals, ranging in location from western Massachusetts to the Dominican Republic.

On Sept. 28, Charland was recognized for his outstanding efforts

by an array of elected officials, including his boss, Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi.

Charland, a lifelong mechanic, initially approached Cocchi in 2017 to seek assistance with Pedal Thru Youth. The partnership formed quickly, and Cocchi has been left inspired by Charland's selflessness.

"My job is to recognize Bob a little bit and, more importantly, show how much of an impact he's had in our community," said Cocchi. "Really, it's about supporting people like Bob, who has great ideas as well as the time, drive and energy to do this. It's about rallying around him and giving him some

support and manpower."

Also on hand Tuesday was Mayor John Vieau, who expressed his gratitude for Charland's dedication. Vieau said that Chicopee was proud to contribute to the mission of Pedal Thru Youth and even recalled the incredible feeling of receiving a bicycle for Christmas as a child.

"The neighborhood kids are getting bikes. What's better than that? If you're making a difference in one kid's life then you're making a difference," said Vieau.

City Council President Shane Brooks also attended the Sept. 27 ceremony. Brooks spoke at length regarding the significance of Char-

land's work with Pedal Thru Youth; he noted that the 20 bikes given out on Wednesday likely only represent one-half of a percent of Charland's total efforts.

"Bob is just the epitome of giving back to the community, looking for very little recognition. He's promoting the need to help children rather than bringing the spotlight to himself," said Brooks. "It's what community service and giving back is all about, and it can absolutely have an effect on young people."

For more information, one can visit the Facebook page "Pedal Thru Youth."

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SOCCKER

Pioneers take out Wolves



Gabe Messier clears the goal.



Colin Holt quickly moves the ball down field.



PALMER – Last Wednesday afternoon, the offense was on fire and did not stop for the Pathfinder boys soccer team. The Pioneers defeated visiting Hampden Charter 11-1 with Byron Peabody scoring five goals. Six others, including Evan Costa, Gabe Messier, and Josh Blaine, all scored single goals. The Pioneers are 12-0 so far this fall.

Evan Costa digs out the ball.



Austin Degnan controls the ball.



Sam Endelos heads the ball for the Pioneers.

SOCCKER

Mustangs remain undefeated with win over Rams

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

GRANBY — No matter if they're playing a match at the friendly confines of Larry Tassinari Field or on the road, the members of the Monson girls' varsity soccer team have performed very well so far this season.

The Lady Mustangs improved their overall season record to a perfect 11-0 following a 7-0 road victory versus Central Division rival Granby, last Thursday afternoon.

"All of the players have worked very hard and we're a very unselfish team this year. They just want to play every game at a high level," said Monson head coach Eric Degnan. "Whoever has the best opportunity and who's in the best spot will get the ball. We do have a lot of players who can finish, and it showed in today's game."

The Lady Mustangs, who are sitting in first place in the league standings with an 8-0 record, won their first five home matches and they're first six road matches. They also posted their fourth consecutive shutout and the ninth of the regular season.

Monson has gone 9-0-1 in their last ten meetings against Granby (3-6-2, 1-6-1). The two teams played a scoreless tie in the first meeting of the 2019 campaign. The last time that the Lady Mustangs finished the regular season with an undefeated record was in 2016.

Monson is also the top ranked team in the MIAA Division 5 power rankings. Palmer is currently ranked second in Division 5.

Seven different Monson players contributed with either a goal or an assist in the second meeting of the season against the Lady Rams.

Freshman forward Tennessee Murphy led the way offensively for the Lady Mustangs by recording her sixth hat-trick of the regular season. Junior forward Emmy Finnegan added a pair of goals and had an assist. Eighth grade midfielder Hannah Murphy scored a goal and was credited with a pair of assists.

Monson junior goalkeeper Sam Stewart only had to make three saves against the Lady Rams. She had missed a couple of games with an injury and was replaced by freshman Emily Provost. The duo has combined to allow just two goals in the first eleven matches.

"Whenever you do have a shutout, it's just a great feeling," said Monson senior captain Rylee Bonneau. "We do have a very strong defense and we just want to keep winning games."

One of the goals was by Granby senior midfielder Arianna

Klekotka in the first meeting of the season between the two teams back in the middle of September.

Bonneau anchors the Lady Mustangs defensive unit, along with sophomore Emma Murphy, freshman Addie Peterson, sophomore Sierra Martinson, and junior Maggie Ronaldson.

"We've been rock solid defensively all season long," Degnan said. "I'm really pleased with how well our defense has been playing."

Degnan also praised Granby senior goalkeeper Gabby Walz, who made a total of 13 saves.

"We did have several quality opportunities early in the first half of today's match," Degnan said. "I thought Gabby was absolutely lights out, especially when she managed to keep it scoreless. She made a couple of big saves. She did an outstanding job, and we do have a tremendous amount of respect for her."

Walz, who's a first-year goalie, received plenty of support from her defense led by senior Liberty Conlin, senior Sienna Hill, freshman Molly Zubruski, and freshman Cassandra Flaherty.

"Gabby was a very good field player for us during the past five seasons," said Granby head coach Bob Weaver. "We needed a starting goalie and she offered to do it. She has been outstanding all season long and has done everything that we've asked her to do. We're just a young and inexperienced team this year."

Walz made a couple of early saves on shot attempts by Tennessee Murphy. She deflected away another shot attempt by Hannah Murphy following a corner kick.

The Lady Mustangs took a 1-0 lead when sophomore midfielder Kendall Bodak lined a shot into the right corner during the ninth minute of the opening half. Monson's first goal was assisted by sophomore midfielder Lyndsey Bailey.

Monson built a 4-0 lead after scoring three more goals during a ten-minute span in the middle of the first half.

Two of those goals were scored by Tennessee Murphy, which were sandwiched around a goal by Hannah Murphy.

The only three shots on goal by Granby in the first 40 minutes of the contest were by junior forward Ella Laliberte, senior forward Briana Sosa, and Arianna Klekotka.

The home team didn't have any shots on goal during the entire second half.

Finnegan scored a pair of second half goals and Tennessee Murphy added the other goal for the Lady Mustangs, who outshot the Lady Rams 28-3.

SOCCKER



Courtney Shea follows through on a shot that resulted in a goal for the Pioneers.



Christina Pereira balances the ball with opponents nearby.



Samantha Lowe starts a run near the sideline.



Sophia Dobek plays the ball off her knee.

Saints roll over Pioneers

Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

PALMER – Last Thursday afternoon, Pathfinder suffered a tough loss against visiting St. Mary's 5-1. Pathfinder scored its lone goal during the first half as Courtney Shea managed to connect. Delia Papesh made 21 saves in a busy day in the goal for Pathfinder.



Jason Angelica maintains control of this battle.



Alex Young brings the ball down field.



Shane Szado heads the ball.



Noah Martinson follows his late game goal on this nice play.

Photos by Jack Cascio NEARsmugmug.com



Benjamin Pignone kicks to an opponent.

Mustangs edged by Pacers

CHICOPEE – Monson boys soccer remained winless with a 2-1 loss against visiting Chicopee. Noah Martinson

scored the lone goal for the Mustangs with Colin Beaupre getting the assist.

Blues send more players to T-Birds ahead of season opener

ST. LOUIS – St. Louis Blues President of Hockey Operations and General Manager Doug Armstrong announced today the team has assigned forwards Logan Brown and Mackenzie MacEachern to its AHL affiliate, the Springfield Thunderbirds. Brown, 23, was originally a first-round selection of the Ottawa Senators (11th overall) in the 2016 NHL Draft. He has skated

in 30 career NHL games with Ottawa. He was acquired on Sep. 25 in exchange for Zach Sanford as part of a trade between the Blues and Senators. MacEachern, 27, was originally a third-round pick (67th overall) by the Blues in the 2012 NHL Draft. In 101 career NHL games with St. Louis, MacEachern has tallied 17 points (11g+6a). The Thunderbirds make their

return to the ice for the 2021-22 season at the MassMutual Center on Saturday, October 16 against the Hartford Wolf Pack. The Opening Night festivities will begin with a Pregame Block Party on Court Square from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. featuring a live music performance from Trailer Trash. The Thunderbirds' 5th anniversary season then gets underway inside the MassMutual Center at

7:05, and all fans in attendance will receive a commemorative rally towel and be treated to a special pregame, full team introduction. Tickets are available online and at the box office. For more information on the Springfield Thunderbirds and to order tickets, please visit www.SpringfieldThunderbirds.com.

Rocco, Morgan captures win in day one of Sunoco Series

THOMPSON, Conn. — Berlin, CT's Keith Rocco and Franklin, CT's Ryan Morgan emerged as the biggest winners of day one action for the 59th Sunoco World Series of Speedway Racing at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park on Friday, October 8. Rocco remained perfect in the Sunoco Modifieds for the 2021 season while Morgan bounced back from an opening-lap Late Model melee to hang on for his first championship.

Rocco rolled off eighth for the 30-lap opening round of the Sunoco Modified Triple Crown Series as part of World Series Weekend. After Andrew Molleur went hard into the backstretch wall on the opening circuit, Rocco began following Wolcott, CT's Mike Christopher Jr. through the field. Christopher got to the front first, swinging underneath polesitter Paul LaPlante entering turn one to take the lead on lap eight.

Rocco slingshot past LaPlante on the opposite end of the track and set his sights on Christopher. But before Rocco could even contemplate a move, Christopher lost power as the field came off the fourth corner to complete lap 11. Christopher could only pull to the inside and helplessly watch as the field flew past.

Newly crowned Stafford Speedway and New London-Waterford Speedbowl champion Todd Owen eventually picked his way through the pack to second. Owen then closed to within two car lengths of Rocco but could not seal the deal. It was the 60th career win for Rocco at Thompson Speedway. He also has won all five Sunoco Modified events held at Thompson under the sanction of the American-Canadian Tour (ACT) and Pro All Stars Series (PASS).

Chaplin, CT's Danny Cates had a strong run to take third. Jonathan Puleo, Ronnie Williams, Teddy Hodgdon, John Lowinski-Loh, Troy Talman, LaPlante, and Brett Meservy rounded out the top-10.

New Salem, MA's Tom Carey III won the Late Model battle while Ryan Morgan's scarred steed won the war. Morgan entered the 30-lap feature four points ahead of Bellingham, MA's

Woody Pitkat for the Late Model track championship. But as the field came to complete lap one, both Pitkat and Morgan found themselves squeezed into the frontstretch wall. Matthew Lowinski-Loh, Jacob "Rowdy" Burns, and R.J. Marcotte were also collected in the resulting carnage.

Both title contenders were able to continue with Ryan missing all the front sheet metal on his #31CT. Carey bolted to the front on the restart, but three more cautions over the next 12 laps kept him from showing his full hand. Those yellows allowed Morgan to head pit-side and make further repairs while Pitkat's efforts were further hampered by a loose hood.

The title contenders were nose-to-tail for the start of the final 18-lap run. Carey checked out at the front while Pitkat and Morgan fought for every position they could. Pitkat settled in 10th while Morgan desperately fended off Jordan Hadley and Dennis Dumas in the 12th spot. Charles Bailey III got past Pitkat for 10th coming to the white flag, and with Morgan successfully parrying Hadley's moves, the title went to Morgan by two points. It was the first championship of any kind for Morgan in 22 years of auto racing.

Carey sailed off to the victory, bookending his Thompson Late Model season with victories in the Icebreaker and the Sunoco World Series. Oxford, MA's Brian Tagg took second while East Bridgewater, MA's Ryan Kuhn beat out a multi-car tango for third. Mike Benevides, Alby Oviatt, Rick Gentles, Mark Jenison, Burns, Nicholas Johnson, and Bailey were fourth through 10th.

Plymouth, MA's Paul Newcomb completed the 8-Cylinder Street Stock Open trifecta by a whisker in the 25-lap main event. Newcomb earned the pole in qualifying under the ACT "plus-minus" system, leading the 31-car field to the green after two Street Stock Open wins earlier in the season.

The veteran walked away at the front over a clean first 17 circuits until Chad Baxter spun trying to pass Devin McConologue for the second spot, bringing out the first caution. Mapleville, RI's Corey Fanning had stormed from



Berlin, CT's Keith Rocco (top left) celebrates victory in the Sunoco Modified Triple Crown Series with his family.

dead last on the grid to fifth, and when the green flew again, he completed his charge to the front and muscled past Newcomb with four laps to go.

A lap later, Keith Johnson slammed the frontstretch wall for another yellow. On the restart, third-place runner Christopher Buffone appeared to have a tire go flat, triggering a fracas off turn four that swept up Ryan Waterman, Andrew Morin, and Jason Finkbein.

Fanning chose the outside for the restart, and he and Newcomb leaned on each other when the race resumed. One last yellow for Jon Porter's stalled automobile set up a green-white-checkered finish. Newcomb led the white flag lap, and it appeared Fanning might have a run as they exited turn four for the final time. But the two got together again, and as they swapped paint coming to the checkered, Newcomb grabbed the \$1,000 payday by 0.006 seconds.

Tyngsboro, MA's Shane Gendron, who quietly ran near the front all night, ended up second in the final rundown after Fanning was disqualified for refusing post-race technical inspection. That handed the third spot on the podium to McConologue. Ryan Lineham, Troy Waterman, Nickolas Hovey, Baxter, Tanner Woodard, Jimmy Silvia, and Waterman completed the top-10.

Higginum, CT's Skip Swiantek fended off Gonie, NH's Glen Billings to win the Senior Tour Auto Racers (STAR) Modified feature. Thomas Trempe led the field to the green for the 15-lap

feature before James Allen's car shut down to bring out the only caution. After going back-and-forth on the restart, Swiantek secured the point on the back chute.

Billings sliced his way through the pack and looked to the bottom on Swiantek off the final corner, but Swiantek had enough to hold on for the win. Gary Moore, Thomas Trempe, and Ed Mulligan followed them across the stripe.

Londonderry, NH's Skip Stearns came out on top of a barnburner in the STAR Late Model Sportsmen. Sheffield, MA's Rick MacDowell led the way early in the 15-lap feature until coming under attack from Stearns. As part of an eight-car pack at the front, Stearns kept working the outside groove until he finally shot past MacDowell on the backstretch with five laps to go.

MacDowell came back after Stearns multiple times, but Stearns held on for the victory in his 1965 Chevy Nova. Housatonic, MA's Joseph Keefner took third in a sister 1970 Chevy Camaro to MacDowell's mount. Bob Guyon and Michael Rucci completed the top-five.

Unionville, CT's Gary Byington beat Plymouth, MA's Ben Levangie for victory in the Outlaw Vintage Modified feature. The two went back and forth early before Byington asserted himself, keeping Levangie at bay down the stretch. It was Byington's first ever victory at Thompson Speedway. Paul Jacques finished third.

Athlete of the Week

Courtney Shea
Pathfinder

Shea tallied the lone goal for Pathfinder girls soccer in a loss against St. Mary's High School. To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

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Bay State Games launches scholarship drive

REGION – The Bay State Games is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for the 2021 Future Leaders Scholarship Program. This marks the thirty-third year of this valuable scholarship program that recognizes the leaders of tomorrow who excel in academics, community service, and athletics. The scholarship program is available to any Massachusetts high school student in the class of 2022. Due to the cancellation of some sports in the 2021 Summer Games, participation in the Bay State Games is not required but is recommended. Six \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to the top applicants.

"The Future Leaders Scholarship Program was established in 1989 and Bay State Games is proud to have distributed over \$380,000 in scholarship funds to deserving Massachusetts high school students since its inception," says Kevin Cummings, Bay State

Games Executive Director. "Bay State Games Scholarship recipients are true leaders in the classroom, the community, and on the field of play, and we are pleased to be able to recognize their outstanding achievements."

Candidates must submit their application information online by Oct. 14. The selection process will begin with a review of each student's application, written recommendations, and transcripts. A number of students will then be selected for virtual interviews which will be conducted the week of Nov. 8. At the conclusion of interviews, six statewide scholarship winners will be announced.

Additional information on the scholarship and a link to an application form can be found at www.baystategames.org/future-leaders-scholarship.

For questions, email info@bay-stategames.org or call 781-932-6555.

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DEATH NOTICES

Eugene M. Conley, 91
Died: Oct. 6, 2021
Graveside service: 2 p.m. Oct. 20 at Oak Knoll Cemetery, Palmer

Louis F. Roncarati, 56
Died: Oct. 4, 2021
Services will be private

The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

O B I T U A R I E S

Eugene Mason Conley, 91

SALEM, N.Y. — Eugene Mason Conley, 91, passed away Oct. 6, 2021, at Glens Falls Hospital in New York.

He was born on Oct. 12, 1929, in Springfield to the late Raymond K. and Edna Margaret Pearl (Sharp) Conley and was a resident of Wilbraham for almost 60 years. Eugene previously worked as a union carpenter for over 40 years before retiring. Following his retirement, he began a career as a wood carver. Many of his carvings were displayed in galleries in both Woodstock, Vt. and Madison Avenue

in N.Y.C.

Eugene loved the outdoors and enjoyed fishing and trapping. He also enjoyed reading and shopping for antiques at the local flea markets and antique shops. Following the passing of his beloved wife, Barbara (Lavelle) Conley, in 2012, Eugene moved out to Hebron, N.Y., to reside closer to their son. He was also predeceased by his brother, Raymond K. Conley, Jr. He will be greatly missed by



his son, Mark Conley, of Granville, N.Y.; daughter, Frances Ann Pollack, of Ithica, N.Y.; and grandchildren, Courtney, David, Emily and Rory.

A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. Oct. 20 at Oak Knoll Cemetery in Palmer. In lieu of flowers, donations in Eugene's memory can be made to the American Heart Association by visiting heart.org. Visit beersandstory.com for more information.

Louis F. Roncarati, 56

BELCHERTOWN — Louis F. Roncarati, 56, passed away Oct. 4, 2021.

He was born on July 22, 1965, in Springfield to Robert and Patricia (Fontaine) Roncarati. Louis graduated from the College of Marin with a degree in Natural Science in 1994. He previously worked as a floor supervisor at Electrolux Freezer Company.

He loved to spend time gardening, building computers, and enjoying long walks at the Quab-

bin. Louis followed geology very closely, collecting rock samples and staying up to date with the latest geological articles.

Louis was predeceased by his father, Robert Roncarati Sr., in September, 2021, and by his sister, Wendy in 2003. He will be greatly missed by his brother, Robert Roncarati Jr. and his wife, Rebecca; nieces, Bianca and Gabri-



elle; and his daughter, Shelby and her mother, Dara Roncarati.

Services will be held privately and at the discretion of the family. In lieu of flowers, donations in Louis' name can be made to the American Lung Association by visiting lung.org. Visit beersandstory.com for more information.

Plant potting workshop, Oct. 15

WARE — Ware Grange's last gardening workshop of the season will be held on Friday, Oct. 15, at 7 p.m., at the Grange Hall on Belchertown Road. In this hands-on workshop, Grange members will be planting houseplants in

objects other than typical pots. Participants may select a pot from those provided or bring their own, which should be no larger than eight inches in diameter. Plant selection, lighting needs and plant care will be discussed. Space is

limited and attendees must register in advance. Contact the Grange at waregrange@comcast.net or 413-284-1135 to register. Please note masks are required inside the Grange Hall.

Police/Fire

Police Logs

PALMER POLICE DEPT.

The Palmer Police Department responded to nine arrests or summons for arrests Oct. 5 - Oct. 12. Those arrested will appear at the Palmer District Court and are innocent until proven guilty:

Wednesday, Oct. 6
Zackary Antonio Fuller, 27, of 7209 Carlowe Ave., Cocoa, was arrested at 2:02 a.m., on Wilbraham

Street in Palmer, on charges of possession of a Class A drug and trespassing.

Nathan Robert James Bar-koskie, 23, of 16 Governor Fairbanks Rd., Brimfield, was arrested at 6:15 p.m., on Breckenridge Street in Palmer, on charges of operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and vandalizing property.

Saturday, Oct. 9
Christine Ann Lamontagne, 50, of 8 Fairview Rd., Wilbraham, was arrested at 2:16 a.m., on operating a motor vehicle under the influence

of liquor.

Sunday, Oct. 10
David J. Martowski, 58, of 120 State St., Bondsville, was arrested at 3:48 p.m., on Main Street in Thorndike, for a warrant.

Monday, Oct. 11
Heidi Greenwood, 41, of 90 Quaboag St., Warren, was arrested at 12:33 a.m., on Wright Street in Palmer, for a warrant and possession of a Class A drug.

Fire Logs

PALMER

The Palmer Fire Department responded to nine calls Oct. 6 - 10:

On Wednesday, Oct. 6, at 2 p.m., the department responded to medical assistance call on River Street at 2:00 p.m.

On Wednesday, Oct. 6, at 2:41 p.m., the department responded to an oil spill on the Mass Pike. The department returned to service at 3:01 p.m.

On Thursday, Oct. 7, at 5:37 p.m., the department responded to a motor vehicle accident on Gates Street. The department returned to service at 6:24 p.m.

On Saturday, Oct. 9, at 8:14 p.m., the department responded to an alarm activation on North Main Street. The department returned to service at 8:37 p.m.

On Sunday, Oct. 10, at 1:17 a.m., the department responded to a carbon monoxide incident on Pleasant Street. The department returned to service at 2:02 a.m.

On Sunday, Oct. 10, at 1:25 p.m., the department responded to a smoke detector activation on River Street. The department returned to service at 1:53 p.m.

On Sunday, Oct. 10, at 2:12 p.m., the department responded to a medical assistance call on Dublin Street. The department returned to service at 2:39 p.m.

On Sunday, Oct. 11, at 5:18 p.m., the department responded to a medical assistance call on Central Street. The department returned to service at 5:45 p.m.

On Sunday, Oct. 10, at 6:51 p.m., the department responded

to alarm activation on Main Street in Thorndike. The department returned to service at 8:29 p.m.

BONDSDVILLE

The Bondsville Fire Department responded to two calls Oct. 5 - 11:

On Tuesday, Oct. 5, at 5:08 p.m., the department responded to an outside burning complaint on Main Street. The department returned to service at 5:35 p.m.

On Sunday, Oct. 10, at 6:50 p.m., the department responded to a mutual aid call for an alarm activation. The department returned to service at 7:39 p.m.

THREE RIVERS

The Three Rivers Fire Department responded to five calls Oct. 5 - Oct. 11:

On Wednesday, Oct. 5, at 8:08 p.m., the department responded to a motor vehicle accident on Sykes Street. The department returned to service at 9:27 p.m.

On Sunday, Oct. 10, at 9:50 a.m., the department responded to a chemical spill on Springfield Street. The department returned to service at 11:10 a.m.

On Sunday, Oct. 10, at 6:51 p.m., the department responded to an alarm system activation on Main Street. The department returned to service at 7:40 p.m.

On Monday, Oct. 11, at 10:34 a.m., the department responded to

MONSON

The Monson Fire Department responded to six fire calls and 23 EMS calls Oct. 3 - Oct. 10:

On Tuesday, Oct. 5, at 11:27 a.m., the department responded to a fire alarm activation on State Street. The department returned to service at 12:00 p.m.

On Thursday, Oct. 7, at 6:30 p.m., the department responded to a burn complaint on Bethany Road. The department returned to service at 6:50 p.m.

On Friday, Oct. 8, at 7:23 p.m., the department responded to a grill fire on Harrison Avenue. The department returned to service at 7:37 p.m.

On Saturday, Oct. 9, at 3:23 p.m., the department responded to an illegal burn. The department returned to service at 4:10 p.m.

On Saturday, Oct. 9, at 4:38 p.m., the department responded to an EMS assistance call on Green Street. The department returned to service at 5:33 p.m.

On Sunday, Oct. 10, at 12:43 p.m., the department responded to a motor vehicle crash. The department returned to service at 1:17 p.m.

Free Health New England webinars to help you be healthy

SPRINGFIELD — Burnout, ergonomics, self-care, and mental health are the topics of a free Health New England live webinar series to be held each Tuesday in October from 12 to 12:45 p.m.

Anyone can sign up for individual sessions or the entire series at <https://www.healthnewengland.org/Wellness/Where-Your-Health-Matters>.

"This year's Health New England webinar series is curated to offer health information people might not normally think about. It's easy to overlook self-care, burnout, or ergonomics when we are so busy with our daily lives and the added stresses of the pandemic," Julia Wilkins, HNE senior health management program specialist. "We invite people to sign up and listen and engage over lunch."

Webinar Schedule:
October 5: Your Secret Weapon: Put Your Oxygen Mask on First. Presenter: Mari Ryan, MBA, MHP, CWP

You juggle many responsibilities with precision and composure. Learn about taking care of the one person you can't succeed without: yourself.

October 12: Work from Home Ergo-

nomics 101. Presenter: Morgan Sutherland

Learn practical ergonomic solutions to improve your comfort and productivity and keep you safe from overuse injuries while working remotely.

October 19: When Should I Seek Help from a Professional? Presenter: Dr. Nathan Somers

Learn about common psychiatric conditions, their most typical symptoms, and the signs that you or a loved one may benefit from working with a mental health professional.

October 26: Busting Workplace Burnout. Presenter: Chris Vasiliadis

Learn what burnout is, how to recognize its symptoms, and get practical ideas of what leaders and employers can do to prevent or curtail it.

Based in Springfield, Massachusetts, Health New England is a not-for-profit health plan serving members in Massachusetts and Connecticut. A wholly-owned subsidiary of Baystate Health, Health New England offers a range of health care plans in the commercial, Medicaid and Medicare markets. For more information, visit healthnewengland.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

E-mail items to mharrison@turley.com or mail to Calendar Editor, Journal Register, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, for receipt by Monday of week for publication.

Editor's note: Due to the coronavirus pandemic, events featured in the Journal Register, including those previewed in stories, briefs and on the calendar page, may be canceled with little notice. The Journal Register encourages readers to contact event coordinators and organizers for updated event times. Have an event to promote? Email the information (in a Word doc or as email text — no PDFs, please — to mharrison@turley.com.

NOW

GARDENING WORKSHOP: Ware Grange's last gardening workshop of the season will be held on Friday, October 15 at 7pm at the Grange Hall on Belchertown Road in Ware. In this hands-on workshop, we will be planting houseplants in objects other than typical pots. Select a pot from those provided or bring your own (should be no larger than 8 inches in diameter). We will discuss plant selection, lighting needs and plant care. Space is limited - attendees must register in advance. Contact us at waregrange@comcast.net or 413-284-1135 to register. Please note - masks are required inside the Grange Hall.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST/KEEP WARM DRIVE: The Three Rivers Firefighter's Association Ladies Auxiliary will

be holding a Pancake Breakfast 8-11 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 17, at the Three Rivers Fire Station, 50 Springfield Street in Three Rivers. \$6 for adults, \$4 for children 4-12 (under 4 is free). Also, anyone bringing an item for the annual Keep Warm Drive — hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, or coats — will be entered in a raffle for a Fall Basket.

BUTTON SHOW: The Massachusetts State Button Society's annual meeting and show will be hosted by the Crescent and Monson Button Clubs 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16, at the Amvets Post 74 on Main St. in Three Rivers. The public is invited to attend the day's activities and to purchase buttons and button-related items from 9 a.m. to noon and 1:30 to 3 p.m.

ART EXHIBIT: For the first time, the Monson Council on Aging & Senior Center is showcasing work by its artists at the Monson House of Art, 200 Main Street. This event is scheduled for 1 to 4 p.m. Oct. 16-17. Some refreshments will be served. Everyone is invited.

SOON

POLISH SUPPER: Saturday, Oct. 23, at Monson-Glen-dale United Methodist Church. Take-out

orders only and reservations are required, deadline for ordering is Oct. 20. Meal includes Goł bki (stuffed cabbage), Pierogi, Kiel-basa, Sauerkraut, Pickled Beets, Rye Bread, and Bread Pudding.

Price is \$15 for adults and \$7 for children. Call 413-267-5207 to place your order.

COLONIAL DISEASES: Dennis Picard's "Pox, Pus, and Creeping Miasma: Disease and Death in Colonial New England" is a free virtual Zoom presentation offered to the public by the Palmer Library at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 28. Life was precarious in early New England, and there were many perils, not the least of which was the cyclical appearance of fatal epidemics. Another equal danger to health was the state of medicine and its understanding of what caused - and how to cure - some of the more common and serious of those afflictions. Dennis Picard will share a bit about the symptoms, causes and treatments endured by those living in North East and English colonies. Register at palmerlibrary.org/events.


TRUNK OR TREAT: The Holland Elementary School PTO is holding a trunk or treat at 5:30

to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 28. Care should line up on East Brimfield Road.

HALLOWEEN FUN: Do your kids have pre-trick or treating plans? No? Well, Scouts BSA Troop 5164 and Cub Scout Pack 164 are celebrating Halloween with some great activities including spooky games, inflatable archery, prizes, and of course, lots of treats — and more. This event is open to all Palmer children 5-17 years old and their families and everyone is encouraged to wear their costumes. Noon to 2 p.m. Oct. 31 at Second Congregational Church in Palmer.

CRAFTS FAIR: The Saints Peter and Paul Rosary Sodality Of Divine Mercy parish will be sponsoring its annual Holiday Craft Fair 9 a.m. to Nov. 13.

Proceeds help fund various Parish projects. The fair will be held in the Parish Center on Main Street in Three River. Parking and admission are free. There will be a Christmas Blessing Lottery Tree with \$1,000 worth of lottery tickets as first prize, talented local artists, and refreshments.



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In the classroom



(Courtesy photo)

HCC receives \$1M grant to build new engineering program

HOLYOKE - Holyoke Community College has been awarded nearly \$1 million from the National Science Foundation to create a new engineering pathways program to help boost the numbers of Latinx and women engineers working in the field.

The grant - \$956,458 over four years - will allow HCC to design an accelerated, one-year engineering certificate program that will culminate in paid internships with high-tech research organizations such as the renowned Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York.

The money comes from the NSF's program for Hispanic Serving Institutions and is intended to improve undergraduate education in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). HCC has been a federally designated Hispanic Serving Institution, or HSI, since 2016. Colleges and universities are recognized as HSIs when their Hispanic/Latinx enrollment exceeds 25 percent.

HCC's partners in the grant include Holyoke High School, Westfield High School, Western New England University, the University of Massachusetts Amherst, the Northampton-based Collaborative for Educational Services, a national association called the 50K Coalition, and the Society for Women Engineers.

The main goals of HCC's new Western Massachusetts Engineering Pathways Program are to increase participation in engineering by members of groups historically underrepresented in the field, to revitalize HCC's engineering programs to be more responsive to a diverse student body, and to ensure the program meets the needs of regional employers.

"The grant gives us the funding to create a new curriculum," said Adrienne Smith, HCC's dean of STEM and one of the grant managers.

Through the grant, HCC will hire an Engineering Pathways coordinator to

recruit high school students for the program. "The coordinator will also be an ongoing resource for the students," said Smith. "We don't want to just get students into the program; we want them to get through it and succeed."

After students complete their coursework they will be placed in paid internships.

"The internship is built into the curriculum," said Smith. "We already have some things set up with Brookhaven Labs. They want our students. They're going to pay for their housing and a healthy salary. We're working to find other companies to do exactly the same thing."

As a further incentive, each student in their final program course will receive a \$1,000 stipend.

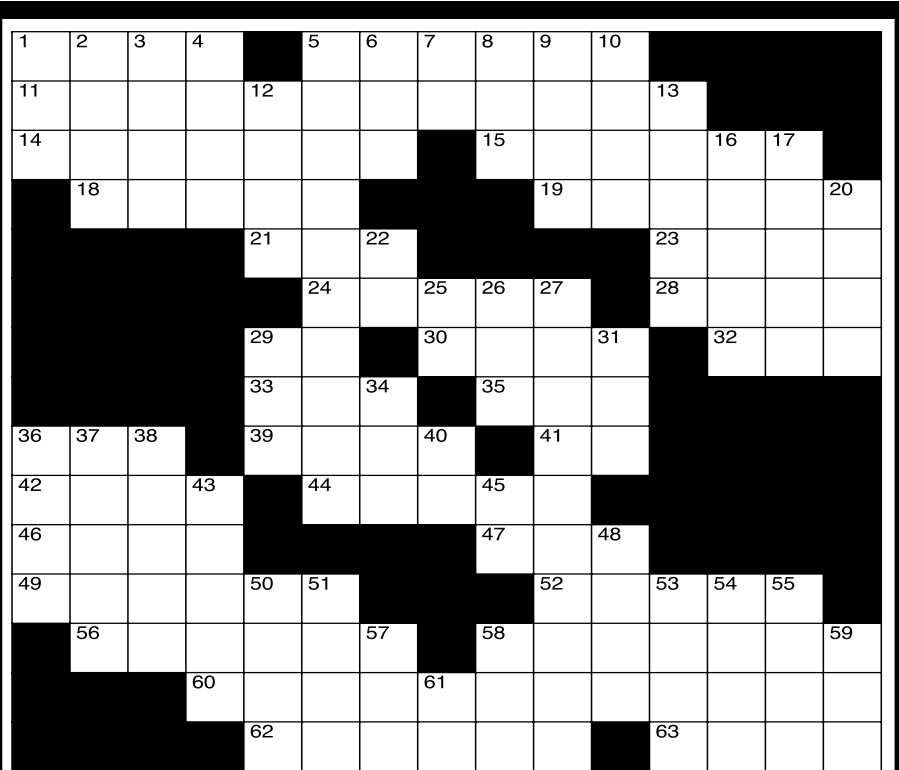
"At the end, after receiving their certificates, students can either go directly into the workforce or they can continue on at HCC for another year to complete their associate degree in engineering," Smith said.

The grant also calls for a review of HCC's associate degree program in engineering in consultation with HCC's partners to increase employer engagement and improve transfer pathways to four-year institutions.

In addition, the grant will facilitate the creation of a chapter of the Society of Women Engineers at HCC.

Also in conjunction with the grant, HCC has joined the 50K Coalition, a national consortium of professional engineering societies whose goal is graduate 50,000 women engineers and engineers of color by 2025.

"Our engineering graduates typically go on to Western New England and the UMass Amherst and other institutions with highly regarded engineering programs, so we are helping to build that base," Smith said.



- CLUES ACROSS**

 - 1. Flat-topped hill
 - 5. Move upward
 - 11. Admiration
 - 14. It's useful for serving food
 - 15. Kidnap
 - 18. One of the Greek Muses
 - 19. A type of media
 - 21. Sunscreen rating
 - 23. Former Michigan coach Brady
 - 24. German town devastated in WW2
 - 28. Gasteyer and Ortiz are two
 - 29. Leave
 - 30. Forearm bone
 - 32. Very fast airplane
 - 33. Helps little firms
 - 35. Defunct economic organization
 - 36. Science-based students
- organization (abbr.)

 - 39. Feels ill
 - 41. Indicates position
 - 42. Beverage containers
 - 44. Assists
 - 46. Science accreditation organization (abbr.)
 - 47. Purpose
 - 49. Group of elected officials
 - 52. Hebrew prophet
 - 56. They help you drink
 - 58. Lawmaker
 - 60. Charitable
 - 62. Doctrines
 - 63. Footwear
- CLUES DOWN**

 - 1. Where wrestlers work
 - 2. Duelling sword
 - 3. Practice fight
- 4. Genus of clams
 - 5. Fear of heights
 - 6. What some tell their dog
 - 7. The Golden State
 - 8. When you expect to get there
 - 9. Pointed ends
 - 10. Extinct flightless bird
 - 12. Feeds
 - 13. Nape of neck
 - 16. Descendant
 - 17. Small boats found in Turkey
 - 20. To avoid the risk of
 - 22. Athlete with no contract (abbr.)
 - 25. 13th letter of the Greek alphabet
 - 26. Brew
 - 27. Feeling of anxiety
 - 29. Young girls group
 - 31. Perform on stage
- 34. White clerical vestment
 - 36. Popular musical awards show
 - 37. Bumpkins
 - 38. One who acts on another's behalf
 - 40. Direction
 - 43. Look at with fixed eyes
 - 45. One who helps professors (abbr.)
 - 48. A large number of
 - 50. Type of powder
 - 51. Large jug
 - 53. ___ Christian Anderson, children's author
 - 54. American state
 - 55. Muslim inhabitant of the Philippines
 - 57. Witness
 - 58. Landscapers lay it
 - 59. Type of bread
 - 61. Of I

The magic and the misery of the Appalachian Trail

By Julie Midura
Correspondent
"Vermont."

The name alone invokes visions of rolling hills, peaceful pastures and meandering paths through lush green woodland forests. But things don't always appear as they seem. At least not when you're a backpacker.

The fact that Vermont is known as "Vermud" within the hiking community should have given us an indication of what we would be faced with.

Our plan was to hike NOBO (north-bound) on the Appalachian Trail from North Adams, Massachusetts to Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. We would complete our 156 mile section hike of the A.T. in 12 days while carrying backpacks that weighed in at 24 and 26 pounds.

When we were planning our adventure, we envisioned strolling through bucolic forests on a soft, pine-needle path. What we faced instead was endless miles of knee deep boot sucking mud, incessant hills and mountains, ankle twisting rock-strewn paths, and an injury that threatened to end our trip.



Courtesy photo

Julie and Tom at the border of Vermont while hiking the Appalachian Trail recently.

Our very first full day on the trail should have told us that Vermont wasn't going to allow us passage without a fight. In addition to the prolific mud, we entered a race with a thunderstorm to see who could reach the safety of a primitive wooden shelter before the lighting lit up the sky above our heads.

Tom and I lost.

For four days, we saw more of the mud beneath our feet than the beauty that Vermont is known for since we were looking down constantly as we leapt from rock to rock in a desperate attempt to avoid being sucked deep into the mire of doom. We endured four days of muddy shoes and socks that never dried out, and we spent four days asking ourselves why we were doing this.

Hiking through the worst mud that Vermont has seen in decades sucked the life right out of us.

But somewhere around mile 50, a miracle happened. The mud decided it had tortured us long enough, and we were finally walking ON the trail rather than sinking INTO it.

The trail wasn't through with us yet, however.

We spent our fourth night on the A.T. at a tent site just a mile below the summit of Bromley Mountain. Our plan was to get up at 4 a.m. in order to hike the final mile to the summit in time for sunrise. When the alarm went off and we pressed the button on our headlamps to illuminate our pitch black tent, we realized that Tom's headlamp had died. New batteries didn't bring it back to life.

The thought of remaining in our cozy double-wide sleeping bag and going back to sleep for a couple more hours DID cross our minds, but watching sunrise from the summit was just too tempting. Once we managed to get the tent and gear packed up by the light of a single headlamp, we headed toward the trail.

Tom took the lead, wearing my headlamp, while I followed hot on his heels. Hiking up the steep rocky path to the summit of a 3,260-foot mountain with a single headlamp between us made for a heart pumping, nerve wracking experience! But when we stepped onto the summit to a sky awash with the colors of a flaming fire, while the clouds below us undulated like an ocean of white, we agreed that it had been worth risking life and limb to get there.

For the first five days of our backpacking trip, the fact that we had a deadline spurred us forward. Our friend David was meeting us at the river near Big Branch on day six of our trip in order to drive us into the town of Danby for food resupply (he would also provide us with a functional headlamp).

With that deadline in mind, we had to get a 19-mile day in. What we didn't take into consideration as we set out on the morning of that high mileage day, was the fact that there was a 3,940-foot mountain between us and the shelter we were trying to reach.

By the time we reached the base of Mt. Stratton at 3:30 p.m., we had already hiked 13 miles. It took every ounce of willpower we could muster to drag our exhausted bod-

ies up that mountain.

Our legs felt like lead when we arrived on the summit at 5:45 p.m., but there was no rest for the weary, because we still had 3.2 more miles to go before reaching the shelter. We turned on our headlamps when the sun went down and stumbled into Stratton Pond Shelter like two drunken sailors after hiking for more than 11 hours. We were utterly spent, but we made it through the most grueling day that we'd ever experienced on a backpacking trip!

The day after we resupplied, Tom and I slowed our pace. We lingered on hillsides and mountaintops on those rare occasions when we stepped out of the green tunnel of trees that Vermont is famous for. We sauntered rather than rushed. We took the time to breathe it all in. To enjoy the moments when nothing else mattered but the majesty that was right in front of our eyes.

When we reached mile 86, with six days remaining, we couldn't wait to see what adventures awaited us on the second half of our journey through Vermont. We had no idea what lay ahead, but we were determined to embrace each remaining day.

Had we known what was in store for us in the upcoming days, we may have not been quite so excited. Stay tuned for part two of our backpacking trip through Vermont in next week's edition.

Feel free to follow our hiking adventures on Instagram: @morethanthemountain.

Connection to Boston Tea Party to be recognized

Samuel Hobbs' grave to receive special marker

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

STURBRIDGE – As part of the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum plans to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party in December 2023, it is commemorating the bravery of Tea Party participants, including Samuel Hobbs, who is buried in the Old Burying Ground, next to the Municipal Office Building.

For the last few years, local historian and Sturbridge Rotary Club member Robert Briere has organized a ceremony recognizing Revolutionary War veterans buried in the historic cemetery by having Burgess Elementary School students place geraniums on their graves for Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

He had chosen Tuesday, Nov. 9, at 10 a.m., for this year's Veterans Day event, but COVID-19 safety restrictions are preventing the students from taking part in this year.

When the museum reached out, town officials approved the placement of a special marker for Hobbs' grave. Briere said he



File photo

A ceremony will held on Tuesday, Nov. 9, at 10 a.m., at the Old Burying Ground to place a commemorative marker on the grave of Samuel Hobbs, who took part in the Boston Tea Party. The marker is from the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum, who is honoring participants in the rebellious act that preceded the American Revolution.

is still organizing the ceremony, which will be held at the same time and place.

The commemorative markers are six-inch wide brass circles attached to a metal stake and feature a cast relief inspired by Nathaniel Currier's 1846 The Destruction of the Tea at Boston Harbor lithograph, a well-known and often-used representation of the Boston Tea Party.

Briere said he was excited looking forward to the coming ceremony. "I have for years wanted to learn more about the

tea party because it happened on Dec. 16, 1773. I was born on Dec. 16, 1933, 163 years later," he said.

But as everyone knows, Briere is excited about Sturbridge history period, and the fact that his birthday and the Boston Tea Party share a date is somehow appropriate and unsurprising.

Samuel Hobbs

So who was Samuel Hobbs? He was a Weston native born in 1750, who took part in the Boston Tea Party, but spent much of his life in Sturbridge. He had a

tanning business in the center of town, according to the 1856 book by George Davis, "A Historical Sketch of Sturbridge and Southbridge." The book goes on to state that Hobbs was noted for the "superiority and faithfulness of his work." Hobbs was also concerned with municipal affairs, although it does not state which positions he held. He was described as being 6-foot, 3-inches tall with a dignified appearance, and died at the age of 71 in 1823.

All participants

The project began in 2018 as the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum worked with Boston and the Historic Burying Grounds Initiative to place these commemorative markers at the graves of Boston Tea Party participants in the burying grounds along Boston's Freedom Trail, according to museum officials. These markers help visitors to the Central, King's Chapel, the Granary and Copp's Hill Burying Grounds recognize the names of the citizens that took part in the Boston Tea Party, one of the most important events leading up to the American Revolution.

By 2023, the museum plans to have placed a commemorative marker at the grave of every known Boston Tea Party participant across the United States.

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Regional

Smola aims to help end ‘meal shaming’

BOSTON – State Rep. Todd M. Smola (R-Warren), the ranking member on the Committee on Ways and Means, recently supported a school nutrition bill that will expand student access to free meals while eliminating “meal shaming” policies that penalize students who are unable to pay.

House Bill 3999, called “An Act promoting student nutrition,” was enacted on a unanimous vote of 157-0 in the House of Representatives on October 6. The bill, which has also passed the Senate, is now on Gov. Charlie Baker’s desk for his review and signature.

House Bill 3999 requires individual schools and school districts where at least 50 percent of the students are considered low-income to participate in the federal program that provides universal free school breakfast and lunch to all students. Representative Smola noted that the bill allows school districts to apply for a waiver if participating in the program will result in a financial hardship.

The bill directs school districts participating in the national school lunch program to maximize federal revenues while minimizing debt on students’ families. It also requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to establish protocols to assist school districts in meeting these goals.

According to Smola, House Bill 3999 also requires DESE to provide guidance to school superintendents for notifying a parent or guardian about a student’s unpaid meal debt. School districts will have 30 days from the date the notification is issued to determine if the student is eligible for free or reduced-price meals, during which time students cannot be denied access to a school meal.

Smola said House Bill 3999 offers strong protections to ensure that students are not punished if they are unable to pay for a school meal or owe money for a previously-served meal. The bill does this by prohibiting schools from:

- taking any action that publicly identifies a student who owes money for meals;
- serving a student with unpaid meal debt an alternative meal that is not available to all students;
- denying a meal to a student as a form of behavioral discipline or punishment;
- disposing of an already served meal because the student is unable to pay for the meal or has unresolved meal debt;
- blocking a student or their siblings from participating in extracurricular activities, field trips or school events because of the student’s unresolved meal debt;
- preventing a student from graduating or blocking the release of a student’s grades, official transcripts, or report cards solely because of unresolved meal debt; or
- requiring a parent or guardian to pay fees or costs for meals previously served to the student in excess of the actual amounts owed.

For additional information, contact Smola at Todd. Smola@mahouse.gov or 617-722-2100.

HONOR • RESPECT



Help support Local First Responders



IN HONOR OF FIRST RESPONDER DAY
OCTOBER 28, 2021

PURCHASE A T-SHIRT - \$20
ALL PROFITS SUPPORT LOCAL FIRST RESPONDERS

Ludlow Rotary



T-Shirts are available at local businesses and online at ludlowrotary.org

Courtesy photo

Supporting First Responders

The Ludlow Rotary Club is asking for the public to join them in an effort to show their support on First Responder Day, Oct. 28, as well as help the Rotary’s on-going charitable programs. You can help by purchasing a specially made T-shirt for \$20 at the Rotary’s website, ludlowrotary.org, at the Ludlow Safety Complex and the following local businesses: Randall’s Farm, East Street Coffee Co., and Brookside Cafe.

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Fire academy gets gets new props

STOW—Massachusetts State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Acting Director Maribel Fournier announced recently that the MFA has received \$500,000 in Federal Emergency Management Agency grant funding to purchase two mobile props that will replace aging, outdated equipment and enhance training opportunities for fire departments across Massachusetts.

The FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant funding will allow the MFA to purchase a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus maze prop and an Emergency Vehicle Operator driver simulator prop. Both props will be trailer-based, allowing them to provide training at multiple locations.

“Firefighter training is key to firefighter safety,” Gov. Charlie Baker said.

“This funding will improve the Academy’s ability to teach recruits new skills and help veteran firefighters sharpen theirs. It builds on our Administration’s commitment to occupational safety, health, and wellness in the fire service.”

Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito said, “Every day, firefighters put their lives and safety on the line to protect others. These resources will allow them to practice and refine their skills under controlled circumstances, leaving them better prepared to respond to emergencies and crisis conditions. The Assistance to Firefighters Grants reflect a smart investment to protect these brave first responders and the communities they serve.”

Ostroskey said firefighter recruits need to learn versatility.

“The curriculum we offer at the MFA reflects the fact that firefighters do much more than put out

fires,” he said.

“The equipment funded through this grant will improve the quality and accessibility of training we provide for 366 departments across the Commonwealth, help firefighters develop and maintain critical knowledge, and elevate municipal preparedness for any emergency they respond to. And because these are mobile props, we can literally deliver this high-quality training to fire departments statewide.”

“On behalf of all residents of the Commonwealth, I thank our federal partners for investing in Massachusetts public safety,” said Homeland Security Undersecretary Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe.

“We know that every second counts in an emergency. Our brave and courageous firefighters will use these training resources to save lives.”

The SCBA mazes are the MFA training props most frequently utilized by local fire departments, with about 500 firefighters utilizing them each year to simulate the dark, enclosed areas with limited ability for movement that they could encounter in a burning building. The MFA currently operates three of them: one is a fixed installation on the Stow campus, the second is a trailer-based mobile prop based on the Springfield campus that serves departments in Western Mass. and the third is another mobile prop based at the Bridgewater campus. While this prop’s maze is operational, the trailer on which it sits is more than 20 years old and at the end of its useful life. The grant-funded trailer will replace it as a mobile training prop serving Eastern Massachusetts and allow the aging trailer to be used as a stationary maze at

Bridgewater.

The EVO trailer will likewise replace an outdated simulator that currently operates on a limited basis because its decade-old technology is almost obsolete. The new EVO simulator will feature a multiple-screen cockpit with two reactive operator chairs that pitch, roll, and heave the way fire apparatus does during an emergency response, as well as a full dashboard with analogue gauges, radio, siren, steering wheel, and pedals. It will also have a separate instructor station to monitor and control the training. Where the MFA’s current EVO simulator is currently used only as necessary, the grant-funded simulator will allow a transition to proactive training in vehicle skills that are crucial for the fire service.

FEMA offers the Assistance to Firefighters Grant to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of fire departments and non-affiliated emergency medical service organizations. State firefighting academies have been eligible for this grant program for only eight years. The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy has been successful each year and received a total of nearly \$3.4 million in funding for vital training resources.

The MFA has purchased several training props through the AFG program: the forcible entry prop, a maze trailer (based out of Springfield), the flashover training prop, search and rescue training props on the Bridgewater and Springfield campuses, and a Mobile Extraction Unit to clean large quantities of firefighters’ gear of contaminants and chemicals that can contribute to occupational cancer.

Courtesy photo
Second Chance Animal Services has started a new program to have retired veterinarians work in their clinics.

Retired veterinarians are making a difference

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The veterinary field is demanding on both the body and soul. Professionals face long hours, tending to the animals that need help and squeezing in ‘just one more’ who needs to be seen right away. When they go home at night, they continue to think about the pets they’ve seen that day. Pets facing a grim prognosis tug at their heartstrings. How can they help more?

It’s no wonder so many look forward to retirement. After many years of service, they need their much-deserved rest. They don’t miss the stress of running a practice or keeping a grueling schedule, but after a while, many begin to miss helping animals.

Second Chance Animal Services recognizes that retired veterinarians have a wealth of animal care experience, and they want to continue to make a difference. Earlier this year, they launched an initiative to welcome retired veterinarians on their own terms.

CEO Sheryl Blancato said, “Second Chance has a long history of working with retired veterinarians who have shared their experience and talent. Some have mentored the next generation, sharing skillful surgical techniques or consulting on difficult cases. Others help with our community vaccine clinics, allowing us to bring lifesaving vaccines to pets across the state.”

Blancato created the Post-Retirement Veterinarian Program to let retired veterinarians know they are welcome at Second Chance, and to give them all the options they need to make it a fulfilling experience. She personally works with each veterinarian to help them explore the right balance.

“I invite them to tell me what they miss, what they might like to do and how often they want to help. We discuss which locations are most convenient, too. We currently have hospitals in North Brookfield, Springfield and Worcester and we’re opening a new hospital in Southbridge very soon. The program is flexible so they can set their schedule. It can be one day a week or seasonal. Whatever fits in their schedule so they can still help pets and enjoy their retirement.” Blancato adds that veterinarians can choose to be paid or volunteer, depending upon their preferences.

The program is just one of several initiatives Second Chance is working on to provide long-term solutions to the current veterinary care crisis. Those interested in more information can visit www.secondchanceanimals.org/post-retirement-veterinarian-program/.

VFW looking for ‘Exceptional Teachers’ to honor

LUDLOW – Veterans of Foreign Wars Post Ludlow VFW Post 3236 Commander Rick Askew announced the kick-off of this year’s Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award contest.

Every year, the VFW recognizes exceptional teachers for their outstanding commitment to teaching Americanism and patriotism to their students. The winning teachers from each (state) department receive a national citation for themselves, and one for their school.

Current certified/licensed teachers of grades K-12 can be nominated by fellow teachers, students, family members, other interested individuals or nominate themselves.

Teachers who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism, and strive to help students develop a better understanding of democratic values and beliefs are prime candidates for the award.

Nominations are to be turned in to the local VFW Post.

Nominated teachers compete at the local VFW Post level with the winner advancing to the district level competition, if applicable, with the winner advancing to the state level competition by Jan. 1. State first-place winners are advanced to National Headquarters by Feb. 1, for national-level competition.

The VFW enacted the Teacher of the Year award contest in 1999 as a way to identify and recognize America’s best educators.

The VFW annually recognizes the nation’s top teachers who instill a sense of national pride in students by teaching citizenship education topics regularly and promoting America’s history and traditions effectively.

If you are interested in nominating yourself, or a teacher you know for this contest, contact the Citizenship Education Chairman at VFW Post 3236 by phone at 413-385-1790 or email the Post at post3236@vfwma.org for more information.

For more information about the contest itself, go to vfw.org/TeacheroftheYear.

For more information about the contest itself, go to vfw.org/TeacheroftheYear.

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Information

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calendar listings
FREE OF CHARGE
in our
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Supplement which
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October 18th

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Date/Time

Location

Description

Cost

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Please specify if you would like your name and number printed in the paper.

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Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
or email* them to: jamie@turley.com
*Be sure to indicate “Holiday” in the subject line of your email.

Public Notices

TOWN OF WALES CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act, Chapter 131, Section 40, a Public Hearing will be held by the Wales Conservation Commission on **October 21, 2021**, at the Wales Senior Center (Old Stafford Rd. Wales, MA) at **6:00 PM.** for a **Abbreviated Notice of Intent** filed by Tom Dearborn located at 29 Union Rd. Wales, MA 01081. Virtual participation information will be available on the Town of Wales website or contact planning@townofwales.net. 10/14/2021

Town of Monson Zoning Board of Appeals LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance M.G. L Chapter 40A § 11 the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing **Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 7:30 P.M.** at the Monson Town Hall 110 Main St. Monson, Ma 01057 on the application of Mark L. Hunter for a variance from the requirements of Section 3.2, Table 2, Dimensional & Density Regulations, of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The applicant is seeks to install a 14' x 24' garage that will violate the required front setbacks. The property is located at 351 Cedar Swamp Road, Map 128 and Parcel 8-F, and is zoned Rural Residential. David Beaudoin, Chairman 10/14, 10/21/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

Docket No. HD21P1908EA
Estate of:
Lorrie A. Baird
Date of Death: 07/07/2021
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Amber Baird** of Monson, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Amber Baird** of Monson, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/11/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court. Date: October 07, 2021
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate 10/14/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-8600

Docket No. HD21P1678EA
Estate of:
Russell C. Bednarski
Date of Death: 06/17/2021
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Tracy R. Christiansen** of Palmer, MA

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Tracy R. Christiansen of Palmer, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 10/14/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts County of Hampden The Superior Court CIVIL DOCKET #2179CV437

RE: Country Bank for Savings vs Heirs, Devisees or Legal Representatives of the Estate of Ruth M. Collins, et al

ORDER OF NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: Heirs, Devisees, and Legal Representatives of the Estate of **Ruth M. Collins**, had a last and usual place of residence at 246 Breckenridge Street, Palmer, Massachusetts, **Michael Collins, Individually and as Personal Representative of the Estate of Ruth M. Collins**, an individual, and to the best of the Plaintiff's knowledge, with a last and usual place of residence at 81 Flynt Street, Palmer, Massachusetts, **Thomas Collins, Individually and as an Heir, Devisee or Legal Representative of the Estate of Ruth M. Collins**, an individual, and to the best of the Plaintiff's knowledge, with a last and usual place of residence at 246 Breckenridge Street, Palmer, Massachusetts, **Kitty Marlow, Individually and as an Heir, Devisee or Legal Representative of the Estate of Ruth M. Collins**, an individual, and to the best of the Plaintiff's knowledge, with a last and usual place of residence at 246 Breckenridge Street, Palmer, Massachusetts in the County of **Hampden; all in said Commonwealth;**

AND TO ALL PERSONS ENTITLED TO THE BENEFIT OF THE SERVICE MEMBERS' CIVIL RELIEF ACT OF 1940 AS AMENDED 2003 as amended;

Country Bank for Savings, a duly incorporated financial institution with a place of business at 15 South Street, Ware, Hampshire County, Massachusetts claiming to be the holder of mortgage covering property known as 246 Breckenridge Street, Palmer, Hampden County, Massachusetts given by Ruth M. Collins to Country Bank for Savings dated October 1, 2007

recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds Book 16960, Page 378, has filed with said court a Complaint for authority to foreclose said mortgage in the manner following: by entry on and possession of the premises therein described and by exercise of the power of sale contained in said mortgage.

If you are entitled to the benefits of the Service

Members' Civil Relief Act of 1940 as amended, and you object to such foreclosure you or your attorney should file a written appearance and answer in said court at Springfield in said County on or before **11/15/21** or you may be forever barred from claiming that such foreclosure is invalid under said Act.

Witness, Heidi E. Brieger, Chief Justice of the Superior Court, at Springfield, Massachusetts, this 4th day of October, 2021.

Laura S. Gentile,
Clerk of the Courts

By: **Stephanie Roscoe**
Assistant Clerk
10/14/2021

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Linda S. Costa to Lendia, Inc., dated February 13, 2007 and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 16514, Page 548 (the "Mortgage"), as affected by Judgment dated December 31, 2019, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 23114, Page 480 of which mortgage Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. as Trustee for Option One Mortgage Loan Trust 2007-5 Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2007-5 is the present holder by Assignment from Lendia, Inc. to Option One Mortgage Corporation dated February 12, 2007 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 16920, Page 219, and Assignment from Option One Mortgage Corporation to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. as Trustee for Option One Mortgage Loan Trust 2007-5 Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2007-5 dated March 24, 2008 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 17226, Page 134, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 10 Robbins Road a/k/a 10.5 Robbins Road, Monson, MA 01057 will be sold at a Public Auction at **11:00 AM on November 4, 2021**, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land together with the buildings thereon located in Monson, Hampden County, Massachusetts, lying Southerly of Robbins Road, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin on the westerly side of land now or formerly of the central Vermont Railway, Inc., at the southeasterly corner of land now or formerly of Phyllis A. Klick, as shown as Lot No. one (1) on a plan recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book of Plans 136, Page 64 and running thence

uth 10 degrees 1' 45" E, twenty-two (22) feet along said Central Vermont Railway, Inc., land to an iron pin: thence continuing

South 10 degrees 1' 45" about five (5) feet along said Central Vermont Railway, Inc. land to a point on the northwesterly bank of Chicopee Brook, thence turning and running

Southwesterly and Southerly about four hundred fifty (450) feet along said northwesterly bank of Chicopee Brook to a point at land now or formerly of Robert P. and Sandra P. Lobik thence turning and running

N. 81 degrees 55' W., about ten (10) feet along said land of Lobik to an iron pin, a straight line tie distance between the last two mentioned iron pins being S. 16 degrees 38' W., four hundred and 89/100 (400.89) feet: thence continuing

N. 81 degrees 55" W., three hundred twenty and 22/100 (312.22) feet along said land of Lobik and land now or formerly of Pearl M. Claing to an iron pin; thence turning and running

S. 87 degrees 47" W, one hundred forty-four and 02/100 (144.02) feet along land of Claing to an iron pin: thence turning and running

S. 80 degrees 20' W, four hundred nine and 25/100 (409.25) feet along said land of Claing to an iron pin at land now or formerly of Edward J. Dunn; thence turning and running

N. 44 degrees 34' 15" W., one hundred fourteen and 22/100 (114.22) feet along said land of Dunn to an iron pin: thence turning and running

N. 42 degrees 45' 30" W., one hundred eighty-five and 78/100 (185.78) feet along said land of Dunn to an iron pin at land now or formerly of Kenneth A. and Elizabeth R. Raymond thence turning and running

N. 79 degrees 26' 45" E., one thousand one hundred ninety - three and 60/100 (1193.60) feet along said land of Raymond land now or formerly of David Mitchell, Jr., land now or formerly of Donald L. and Suk Cha Bergeron land now or formerly of John J., Jr and Rose M. Sherlock land now or formerly of Fredrick J. and Reva D. Tomasek and said land now or formerly of Phyllis A. Klick to the point of beginning.

Containing about 6.5 acres The above described premises are shown on a plan entitled Plan of land in Monson Mass surveyed for George E. Largevin dated October 16, 1973 made by Kenneth C. Sherman Engineer-Surveyor recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book of Plans 147, Page 102.

Together with a right of way ten (10) feet in width for ingress and egress to and from the above described premises as set forth in deed dated October 10, 1952 and recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 2204, Page 145.

Being the same premises as deeded by George E. Langevin dated January 17, 1978 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 4542, Page 127.

The property will be sold subject to the Classified Forest-Agricultural or Horticultural-Recreational Land Tax Lien recorded in Plymouth County Registry of Deeds in Book 17601, Page 446 and Book 21030, Page 288.

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 4542, Page 127.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA 01851 or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Other terms to be announced at the sale. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. as Trustee for Option One Mortgage Loan Trust 2007-5 Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2007-5 Korde & Associates, P.C. 900 Chelmsford Street Suite 3102 Lowell, MA 01851 (978) 256-1500 Costa, Linda S., 13-011715 10/07, 10/14, 10/21/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-8600

Docket No. HD21P1892EA
Estate of:
Barbara J. Mann
Date of Death: August 5, 2021
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Michael E. Mann** of Palmer, MA

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Michael E. Mann of Palmer, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 10/14/2021

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Michelle M. Ward FKA Michelle Lamb to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. acting solely as a nominee for Quicken Loans Inc., dated February 15, 2018 and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 22149, Page 478, subsequently assigned to 1st Alliance Lending, LLC, its successors and assigns, dated April 27, 2018 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 22149, Page 478, subsequently assigned to 1st Alliance Lending, LLC by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 22578, Page 51, subsequently assigned to The Money Source Inc. by 1st Alliance Lending, a Connecticut Limited Liability Company, its successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 22714, Page 11 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at **1:00 PM on October 21, 2021** at 320 Palmer Road, aka Route 20, Brimfield, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon located on the easterly side of Palmer Road (a/k/a Route 20), Town of Brimfield, County of Hampden, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and being shown as Lot 4 on a plan entitled "LOT DIVISION PLAN OF LAND IN BRIMFIELD, MA prepared for STEPHEN R. HOLUK & KEITH T. HOLUK (Owners) ROGERS WOODS & CO" dated December 29, 2014 and recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book of Plans 372, Page 70. Said Lot 4 contains 73,472 square feet (1.686 acres), more or less, according to said plan. Being the same premises conveyed to the mortgagors herein by Deed recorded immediately prior hereto in Book 22149, Page 475.

The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding.

The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. **TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.**

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

The Money Source Inc. Present Holder of said Mortgage,

By Its Attorneys,
ORLANDS PC
PO Box 540540
Waltham, MA 02454
Phone: (781) 790-7800
19-011367
09/30, 10/07, 10/14/2021

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Michelle M. Ward FKA Michelle Lamb to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. acting solely as a nominee for Quicken Loans Inc., dated February 15, 2018 and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 22069, Page 436 (the "Mortgage") of which mortgage Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans Inc is the present holder by Assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS") as nominee for Quicken Loans Inc., its successors and assigns to Quicken Loans Inc. dated January 4, 2019 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 22516, Page 334, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 108 Peterson Road, Palmer, MA 01069 will be sold at a Public Auction at **2:00 PM on November 1, 2021**, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

Land situated in the City of Palmer in the County of Hampden in the State of MA

CERTAIN REAL ESTATE SITUATED IN PALMER, HAMPDEN COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS, BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT 15 REVISED (FIFTEEN) AS SHOWN ON A PLAN OF LAND RECORDED IN THE HAMPDEN COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN BOOK OF PLANS 326, PAGE 34, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT AN IRON PIN SET ON THE EASTERLY SIDE OF PETERSON ROAD AT THE SOUTHWESTERLY CORNER OF THE LOT OR PARCEL DESCRIBED HEREIN RUNNING
NORTH 22 DEGREES 03 MINUTES 50 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE WESTERLY CORNER OF LOT OR PARCEL HEREIN DESCRIBED, A DISTANCE OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-FOUR AND 41/100 (154.41) FEET TO A POINT; THENCE

NORTH 17 DEGREES 19 MINUTES 0 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE WESTERLY CORNER OF LOT OR PARCEL HEREIN DESCRIBED, A DISTANCE OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTY AND 150/101 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE

NORTH 82 DEGREES 12 MINUTES 45 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE SOUTHERLY BORDER OF LOT #14 (FOURTEEN) AS SHOWN ON PLAN 266/54, A TOTAL DISTANCE OF FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY-THREE AND 95/100 (463.95) TO AN IRON PIN SET; THENCE

SOUTH 08 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 00 SECONDS

WEST ALONG THE SOUTHWESTERLY BORDER OF LOT #14 (FOURTEEN) AS SHOWN ON SAID PLAN, A TOTAL DISTANCE OF ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE AND 00/700 (125.00) FEET TO A POINT; THENCE

NORTH 81 DEGREES 58 MINUTES 00 SECONDS ALONG LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF JOSEPH D. & SHIRLEY NACSIN, A TOTAL DISTANCE OF ONE HUNDRED TWENTY AND 78/100 (120.78) FEET TO A POINT; THENCE

SOUTH 00 DEGREES 31 MINUTES 20 SECONDS WEST A TOTAL DISTANCE OF ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-TWO AND 80/100 (122.80) FEET TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE
NORTH 88 DEGREES 22 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE NORTHERLY BORDER OF LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF DANIEL A & JUDITH A. HULL A TOTAL DISTANCE OF TWO HUNDRED EIGHTEEN AND 86/100 (218.86) FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING.

NOTE: The Company is prohibited from insuring the area or quantity of the land. The Company does not represent that any acreage or footage calculations are correct. References to quantity are for identification purposes only.

Being the same property conveyed to Michelle Lamb, by deed dated January 5, 2012 of record in Deed Book 19142, Page 491, in the County Clerk's Office.

Commonly known as: 108 Peterson Road, Palmer, MA 01069-9847

THE PROPERTY ADDRESS AND TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER LISTED ARE PROVIDED SOLELY FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 19142, Page 491.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans Inc Korde & Associates, P.C. 900 Chelmsford Street Suite 3102 Lowell, MA 01851 (978) 256-1500 Ward, Michelle M., 19-034745 10/07, 10/14, 10/21/2021

The Town of Monson Zoning Board of Appeals LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 40A, M.G.L. s.11, the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing **Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 7:20 P.M.** at Monson Town Hall 110 Main St. Monson, MA 01057 on the application of Leemilt's petroleum Inc. / Getty Realty Corp., for a Special Permit requesting the enlargement or alteration of a non-conforming use within the Water Supply Protection District .The applicant intends to construct a new convenience store, install gasoline pumps, and repave & regrade the existing parking lot in order to provide proper stormwater management that is in compliance with MassDEP Stormwater Standards. The location is 27 Palmer Road, Monson, MA, Map 112 Parcel 90, owned by Leemilt's petroleum Inc. / Getty Realty Corp., in the General Commercial district and the Water Supply Protection District. A copy of the application is available for review with the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals. David Beaudoin, Chairman 10/07, 10/14/2021

ment that is in compliance with MassDEP Stormwater Standards. The location is 27 Palmer Road, Monson, MA, Map 112 Parcel 90, owned by Leemilt's petroleum Inc. / Getty Realty Corp., in the General Commercial district and the Water Supply Protection District. A copy of the application is available for review with the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals. David Beaudoin, Chairman 10/07, 10/14/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

Docket No. HD21P1680EA
Estate of:
Michelle Lynn Cole
Date of Death: 07/29/2021
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Richard I Cole, III** of Belchertown, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Richard I Cole, III** of Belchertown, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/08/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court. Date: October 08, 2021
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate 10/14/2021

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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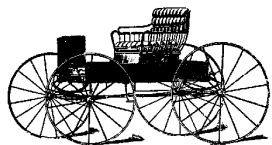
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fill several part-time recreation posi-
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22, 2021. For application and more
information please visit www.wilbraham-ma.gov. EOE

SNOWPLOW CONTRACTOR
WANTED: The Town of Hubbardston
is seeking a private contractor(s) to
plow and sand Mile Road and Plum
Tree Lane in Hubbardston for the 2021-
2022 Winter Season. The Contractor
will be responsible for keeping the
road plowed and treated with sand/salt
mixture. Minimum equipment required:
3/4-ton truck with plow and 1.3CY
sander. Sand/salt mix to be provided
by the Town of Hubbardston. Contract
period will be 12/1/21-3/31/22. Insur-
ance Certificate and Workers Com-
pensation insurance is required from
the successful bidder. The bid opening
will occur on Wednesday October 27,
2021 at 1:30 P.M. at the Hubbardston
DPW garage. The Town of Hubbard-
ston reserves the right to reject any
or all bids, and to waive minor infor-
malities in the bids, or to accept the
bid deemed best for the Town. Bids
need to be marked separately for ei-
ther Mile Road FY22 Winter Season or
Plum Tree Lane FY22 Winter Season
and can be mailed to Hubbardston
DPW 7 Main St. Unit # 6 Hubbard-
ston, MA 01452 or hand delivered to
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The Ware River News is seeking a part-time receptionist
for its office at 80 Main St. in Ware. The hours would be 9
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Duties include answering the phone, helping customers
who walk in to complete a variety of task including faxing
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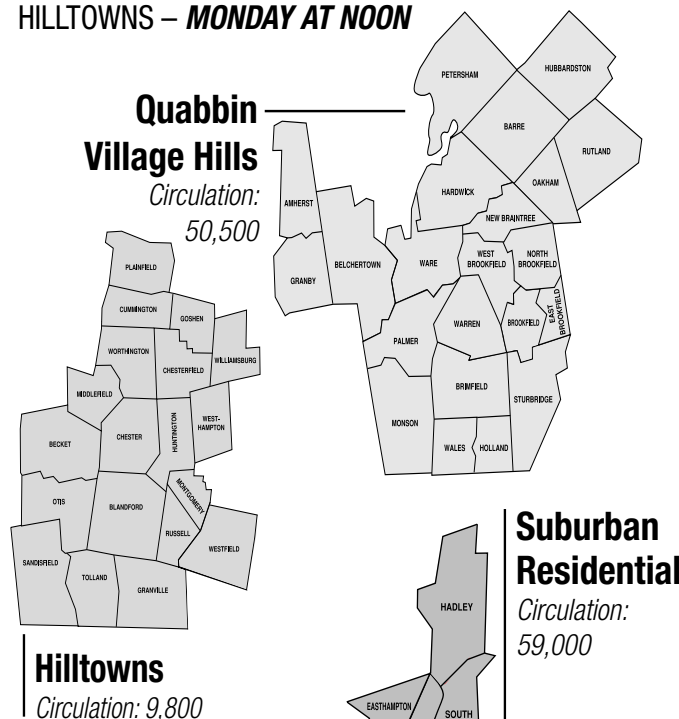
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THEATER

Ludlow’s Exit 7 Players presents ‘The Who’s Tommy’ starting next week

By Nicole Acevedo
Correspondent

LUDLOW — Ludlow’s local community theater, Exit 7 Players, is set to perform the iconic musical production “The Who’s Tommy,” as inspired by The Who’s rock concept album. Performers take the stage on Oct. 22, 23, 28, 29, and 30 at 8 p.m., as well as for two matinee performances on Oct. 24 and 31 at 2 p.m.

Exit 7 Players Theater took over what used to be the old Ludlow High School auditorium in 1984, as it was founded by local theater enthusiasts who wanted to have their own space to share with the community. With its 37 years of productions, the theater’s mission has remained the same:

“To present wonderful, quality, accessible theatrical productions – both musicals, and what you and I call ‘straight-plays,’ that can engage the community, involve the community, and that can be an outstanding theater for



Director Michael Budnick speaks with the cast of “The Who’s Tommy,” coming to the Exit 7 Theater next week.



Exit 7 Players rehearse a scene in which a young Tommy impresses with improbable pin ball skills.

the community,” said “Tommy” director and theater Treasurer, Michael Budnick.

“Tommy” is Budnick’s directorial debut for Exit 7 in his six years at the house, although he has directed and been involved with countless other productions over the years for various theater companies.

“The group has really grown over the years,” said Budnick.

“They now present each year two, full-scale, fully-orchestrated musicals, and often two straight-plays.”

Taking on the challenge of performing

a musical as well-known and demanding as “Tommy,” is no easy feat. In fact, Budnick, alongside music and sound supervisor George Garber Jr., have discussed the possibility of doing this play for five years.

“We both have a real love of the original album, of the story, and of what Des McAnuff and Pete Townshend did with it on Broadway,” said Budnick.

“Broadway really brought it home. We thought, ‘where could we do this here?’ and the fact is, you need a lot of space, you need wing space, you need a really good set crew – which we have – you need really good musicians, and

you need a really good draw of talent from the area that can sing, dance, and act. We thought that Exit 7 would be the place to do it.”

Budnick and Garber proposed the musical several times. With the play selection process being extremely rigorous, it wasn’t until 2019 that the production was accepted for a Spring 2020 performance.

However, spring 2020 marked worldwide lockdowns as the COVID-19 pandemic ravaged the globe. Much like it affected everything else, the pandemic shut down the production, pushing its rehearsals and performances back for a year-and-a-half. Outside of the show’s opening day being postponed, the theater had to recast four or five main players due to aging out of their role or other pandemic-related reasons.

Although Exit 7 faced obstacles in getting its performance to the stage, it was important to Budnick that this story be told.

““Tommy” was really groundbreaking when it came out in the 90s because in order to reflect what was going on in Tommy’s mind – his mind was really jumbled, and he couldn’t perceive what was going on – all of the set pieces on stage moved by themselves. They were computer controlled by some kind of electro-magnetic device on tracks, and they were always moving to reflect that turmoil in Tommy’s mind,” Budnick explained.

“We had to recreate that with our actors, and if we wanted to be faithful to the original production, with our stage crew to make sure everything can be moved on and off very quickly. And we’ve done that.”

As “Tommy” tells the electrifying story of a boy who can’t see, speak, or hear, and becomes a pin-ball phenomenon, the Exit 7 Players Theater brings the tale of hope, healing, and humanity to the stage.

For more information or to purchase tickets to the show, visit exit7players.org.

MOVIEVIEW REVIEW

Not perfect, but “Dear Evan Hansen” still worth seeing

By Bob Garver



Recent weekends at the box office have been dominated by the one-two punch of holdovers “Shang Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings” and “Free Guy.” But the opening of “Dear Evan Hansen” this past weekend changed that. By which I mean that it knocked “Free Guy” out of the No. 2 spot. “Shang Chi” continues to kill it at No. 1. But in New York, where I live, the weekend was all about “Dear Evan Hansen.”

Actually, let me rephrase: the weekend at the movies was all about “Dear Evan Hansen.” The weekend overall was all about the reopening of Broadway. The return of excited crowds more than made up for the litter of discarded Playbills.

The film is based on a Tony Award-winning musical that opened in 2016. Lead actor Ben Platt himself won a Tony playing Evan Hansen, and now he’s bringing his portrayal to the big screen. Problem is, Hansen is a high school senior, and while Platt could get away with playing the character onstage at age 23, playing him onscreen (with close-ups) at 27 is a much harder sell. Fortunately, his acting and singing are so good that the things about the performance he can control should make you forget about the things he can’t.

Social anxiety-ridden Evan is heading back to school with a broken arm. This is shaping up to be another year where he won’t make any friends. His closest confidant Jared (Nik Dodani) insists that they’re not really friends and won’t even sign his cast. He pines after crush Zoe Murphy (Kaitlyn Dever), even though she comes with the baggage of her disturbed brother Connor (Colton Ryan).

As a therapy exercise, Evan writes a letter to himself talking about wanting to get to know Zoe better. Connor finds the letter talking about his sister and angrily confiscates it, but not before sarcastically signing Evan’s cast. Soon after, Connor commits suicide.

Connor’s mother (Amy Adams) and stepfather (Danny Pino) are naturally devastated, but there’s a tiny ray of sunshine. Connor was in possession of Evan’s letter, which taken out of context, makes it look like he wanted to be a better brother to Zoe and that he and Evan were friends. The signature on Evan’s cast seems to confirm that their son was able to form a connection

with someone, which brings the parents great joy. Not wanting to hurt the grieving family’s feelings, Evan goes along with the story they’ve fabricated for themselves.

But soon, he’s the one fabricating stories, spinning tales of he and Connor spending hours together at an orchard. Soon he’s the voice of Connor’s memory and setting up a foundation with overachieving classmate Alana (Amanda Stenberg). He’s also spending more and more time with the Murphy family, especially Zoe, at the expense of precious quality time with his overworked nurse mother (Julianne Moore). Evan’s swelling ego and web of lies are bound to catch up with him sooner or later.

I never saw the stage version of this show, but I understand the third act has been rewritten for the transition to the screen. That may explain why it’s such a mess. One character takes a near-villainous turn and everybody seems a lot more miserable once they no longer have Connor and Evan’s friendship for inspiration, a misery that is never really rectified. There’s an act of atonement that supposedly makes things better, but it’s such a cold comfort at that point that it barely registers.

“Dear Evan Hansen” has been widely panned for Platt’s age and the third-act changes, and I’m not saying those elements aren’t problematic, but they weren’t deal-breakers for me. I still found a lot to like about Platt’s performance and his chemistry with Dever, Adams, and Moore. This isn’t going to go down as a “classic” movie musical, but it isn’t a “Cats”-level disaster.

Grade: B-

“Dear Evan Hansen” is rated PG-13 for thematic material involving suicide, brief strong language, and some suggestive references. Its running time is 137 minutes.

Contact Bob Garver at rrg251@nyu.edu.

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